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THE EAST KENT (No. 2)
UNITED DISTRICT.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1925

BY

J. J. DAY, O.B.E., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

PRINTERS :
CHAPMAN & SON,
SANDWICH.

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THE EAST KENT (No. 2) UNITED DISTRICT.

JOINT COMMITTEE.

Eastry Rural District :

C. J. BURGESS, J.P. (Chairman).
A. H. GODFREY, J.P.
J. J. CASPELL.

Bridge Rural District :

H. M. BAKER.
P. CHAMPION.
J. WALTER.

Dover Rural District :

M. PICKETT, J.P.
E. P. KING.

Clerk: FRED A. CLOKE,

Salisbury House,

51, Strand Street,

Sandwich.

52, Whitstable Road,

Canterbury.

January, 1926.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Joint Committee of the East Kent (No. 2) United District.*

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Report on the Health and General Sanitary Conditions of your District for the year 1925. This is my Fifth Annual Report, and in accordance with the directions contained in Circular 648, issued by the Ministry of Health under date 10th December, 1925, is a Survey of the events and measure of progress made in the area during the preceding five years in the improvement of the public health.

Separate Reports on the particulars respecting each of the three areas comprising the United District are included, as are summaries of the Reports of the Sanitary Inspectors, whose work, as usual, has been of the highest standard and invaluable to me in the performance of my duties. I am much indebted to them for their unfailing co-operation.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. J. DAY,

Medical Officer of Health.

THE EAST KENT (No. 2) United District was constituted under an order of the Ministry of Health, dated May 26th, 1920. It comprises the following areas :

THE RURAL DISTRICT OF EASTRY;

THE RURAL DISTRICT OF BRIDGE;

THE RURAL DISTRICT OF DOVER.

Previously to that date the three areas were included in the East Kent Joint District, for which the late Dr. M. K. Robinson acted as Medical Officer of Health until his death in 1916, when Dr. McDougall took over the duties and acted temporarily until the Joint District was split up under the above Order and four Medical Officers appointed for the new areas into which the original District was divided.

I was appointed by the Joint Committee for the No. 2 United District on December 7th, 1920, and took over the duties of Medical Officer of Health on February 1st, 1921. I was also appointed Medical Inspector of the Schools in the District by the Kent Education Committee.

The District is roughly bounded, on the North by the River Stour and the boundaries of the Canterbury Borough and Blean Rural Districts, on the East by the sea and the boundaries of the Deal, Walmer and Dover Urban Districts, on the South by the boundaries of the Folkestone Urban and Elham Rural Districts, and on the West by the boundaries of the East Ashford and Faversham Rural Districts.

The surface is undulating, its highest point being in the Couldham District, about 568 feet above O.D., and its lowest in the Lydden Valley (Deal), about five feet above O.D.

The Geological formation of the District as shown by the many borings put down in the search for coal, is roughly as follows :—

There is a continuous thick bed of Chalk immediately underlying the surface of the entire District and resting on a thinner bed of Gault Clay also continuous under the entire District. This is super-imposed on a bed of Greensand of varying thickness overlying a thin bed of Wealden formation

under which is interposed a wedge-shaped mass of Jurassic rocks overlying part of a massive, bowl-shaped block of the Coal Measures (Transitional and Middle) which rests directly upon the Carboniferous Limestone.

The Surface Geology is varied; possibly the most recent formation is a very extensive bed of Alluvium comprising some 10,000 to 12,000 acres of the surface overlying the Coal Field. Mostly marsh land, this for about 90 per cent is pasture and the remainder arable.

Extending North from Deal along the Coast to the mouth of the River Stour, is an expanse of Blown Sand, about four miles long and of an average width of half a mile. On this are situated the three famous Golf Links and an increasing Residential area of the better class variety, at Sandwich Bay.

Throughout the area there are many patches of Brick Earth which should be of immense value in the Housing developments which are about to eventuate in the District as also should the various patches of Gravel and Sand which occur, notably at Ash, Wingham and Preston. Practically the whole of the high ground in the areas of Woodnesborough, Ash, Staple and Wingham is covered by a layer of Thanet Beds, forming some of the richest agricultural land in the area. Underlying some 20,000 acres of the Bridge and Dover Rural Districts is a rich deposit of iron ore.

The land is mostly arable and pasture but there is a fair proportion of wood-land. The District is still mainly agricultural but the Coal industry is rapidly developing and everything points to a large industrial change in the immediate future.

TABLE OF OCCUPATIONS, E. KENT (No. 2) UNITED DISTRICT,
COMPILED FROM CENSUS RETURNS, 1921.

OCCUPATION.	BRIDGE R.D.		DOVER R.D.		EASTRY R.D.		E. KENT (No. 2) UNITED DISTRICT.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
TOTAL POPULATION	5,459	5,777	4,565	4,308	6,732	6,695	16,756	16,780
AGED 0-11	1,167	1,159	1,055	877	1,566	1,461	3,788	3,497
AGED 12 AND UPWARDS	4,292	4,618	3,510	3,431	5,166	5,234	12,968	13,283
Fishermen			7		2		9	
Agricultural Occupations	1,729	164	924	32	2,405	202	5,058	398
Mining, etc.	118		203		386	2	707	2
Coke, Lime, etc.	1				2		3	
Bricks, Pottery, etc.	4		2		7		13	
Chemicals, Paints, etc.	1		2		6		9	
Metal workers	113		99		169	3	381	3
Precious metal workers					1		1	
Electrical workers	9		12		21		42	
Watches, etc.	2				1		3	
Skins, leather goods	3				2		5	
Textile workers	1	1	1	2		2	2	5
Textile goods, dress, etc. ...	18	18	12	24	32	51	62	93
Foods, drinks and tobacco ...	43	1	33		102	8	178	9
Workers in wood, etc. ...	97		70	2	97	2	264	4
Paper workers, printers, etc. ...	51	17	13	10	8	2	72	29
Builders, bricklayers, etc. ...	143		98	1	155		396	1
Painters and decorators	21		20		40		81	
In other materials	5	8			1		6	8
Undefined materials			2		8		10	
Gas, water, electricity	1		8		10		19	
Transport workers	188	6	152	11	181	5	521	22
Commercial and financial	148	56	136	45	177	87	461	188
Public administration, etc.	67	13	481	23	102	22	650	58
Professional occupations	129	149	108	125	77	101	314	375
Entertainments, etc.	3	1	14	3	8	1	25	5
Personal service	120	583	101	543	121	637	342	1,763
Clerks, typists, etc.	39	27	43	37	46	33	128	97
Warehousemen, etc.	7	1	8		11		26	1
Stationary engine drivers	27		20		47		94	
All other occupations	125	3	96	4	164	5	385	12
Total occupied	3,213	1,048	2,665	862	4,389	1,163	10,267	3,073
Unoccupied and retired	1,079	3,570	845	2,569	777	4,071	2,701	10,210
Total occupied and unoccupied	4,292	4,618	3,510	3,431	5,166	5,234	12,968	13,283

GENERAL STATISTICS.

AREA AND POPULATION.

The area and population of the United District are shown in the following tabular statement. The population figures for 1921 are the actual figures revealed by the Census while those for 1925 are estimated by the Registrar General for the purpose of calculating the Birth and Death Rates.

District.	Area in Acres, including inland water.	Population Census, 1921.	POPULATION. Estimated by Registrar-General for year 1925	
			For Birth Rate.	For Death Rate.
BRIDGE R.D. ...	41,796	11,228	11,340	11,340
DOVER R.D. ...	27,121	8,871	8,580	8,380
EASTRY R.D. ...	43,683	13,433	13,480	13,480
EAST KENT (No. 2) UNITED DISTRICT	112,600	33,532	33,400	33,200

The population is a difficult matter to estimate owing to migration. The "natural increase," i.e. the excess of births over deaths, for the five years is 991. Emigration is quite likely to have been at least balanced by immigration owing to the influx of a certain number of pit-workers and their families; therefore it is possible that the actual population is larger than that estimated, but, until the next Census, no accurate statement will be possible in this regard.

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.

The following tabular statement shows all particulars in regard to the births in the District during the year.

District.	Estimated Population.	BIRTHS.					Birth Rate.	Illegitimate Births % of Total Births.		
		Legitimate		Illegitimate		Total				
		Male	Female	Male	Female					
BRIDGE R.D. ...	11,340	87	97	3	4	191	16.84	3.6		
DOVER R.D. ...	8,580	59	56	3	2	120	13.98	4.1		
EASTRY R.D. ...	13,480	108	112	8	4	232	17.21	5.1		
EAST KENT (No 2) United District	33,400	254	265	14	10	543	16.25	4.6		

England and Wales (Provisional Figures) 18.3 per 1,000.

There is a welcome rise in both the number of births and in the birth rate, but this is still well below the average for the Kingdom.

BIRTHS.

Year.	Total.	Legitimate.		Illegitimate.		Rate per 1,000.
		M.	F.	M.	F.	
1921	596	282	289	14	11	17.99
1922	586	275	285	15	11	17.65
1923	574	279	272	13	10	17.32
1924	523	254	248	10	11	15.75
1925	543	254	265	14	10	16.25

DEATHS.

During the year the nett number of deaths which occurred in the District was 389; 216 males and 173 females. The population estimated by the Registrar General on which the death rate must be calculated is 33,200, which produces a death rate for the District of 11.71 per 1,000. This is not unfavourable when compared with the rate for England and Wales as a whole (12.2 per 1,000).

The particulars as regards the deaths in the District are shown in the table below.

District.	Estimated Population.	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000.
Bridge R.D.	11,340	146	12.87
Dover R.D.	8,380	88	10.50
Eastry R.D.	13,480	155	11.49
East Kent (No. 2) United District ...	33,200	389	11.71
England and Wales .			12.2

The comparative figures for the five years are as follows :—

DEATHS.

Year.	Total Deaths.	Rate per 1,000.	Rate per 1,000 England and Wales.
1921	362	11.01	12.1
1922	375	11.38	12.9
1923	349	10.61	11.6
1924	338	10.26	12.2
1925	389	11.71	12.2

The figures are not unsatisfactory, as the rate has always been below the general rate for the country as a whole. The average age at death (after eliminating the deaths of infants under one year of age) is quite good for the year :—

BRIDGE	R.D.	...	...	...	...	59.3
DOVER	R.D.	...	...	...	...	59.06
EASTRY	R.D.	...	...	...	...	61.8
EAST KENT (No. 2)	UNITED DISTRICT	...	...	...	...	60.2

The accompanying table, compiled from particulars furnished by the Registrar General, shows the causes of the deaths which occurred in the District during the year. Tuberculosis (28), Diseases of the Respiratory Organs (47), Diseases of the Heart (69) and Cancer (44) as usual bulk largely among the causes, having given rise to 48 per cent of the deaths.

EAST KENT (No. 2) UNITED DISTRICT.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN YEAR 1925. REGISTRAR GENERAL'S RETURNS.

The tabular statement annexed shows the incidence of the common causes of death during the five years.

CAUSE.	YEAR.				
	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Tuberculosis ...	31	28	34	22	28
Diseases of Respiration ...	38	51	40	40	47
Heart disease ...	44	48	45	40	69
Cancer	44	41	38	40	44
Parturition ...	1	1	8	2	-
Measles ...	-	-	-	-	1
Whooping cough	-	4	2	1	11
Scarlet fever ...	1	1	-	-	-
Diphtheria ...	8	-	1	-	-
Enteric fever ...	-	-	-	1	-
Influenza ...	4	18	11	17	5

A study of the figures shown by the table is of interest. It would appear that the Tuberculosis mortality in the District is diminishing on the whole, while that from other diseases of the Respiratory System remains fairly constant. There does not appear to be any evidence that Malignant disease (Cancer, etc.) is increasing in the District, the deaths, if anything, seem to be decreasing from this cause. Measles has only caused one death during the five years despite a fairly heavy incidence. Whooping cough has caused deaths each year with the exception of 1921. The mortality from Scarlet fever has been nil for the past three years and only two deaths occurred during the five years. The most satisfactory feature in the mortality table is the diminution to vanishing point of the deaths from Diphtheria. These were fairly heavy up to and including 1921, but since that year only one death has occurred, in 1923. The infantile mortality from Diarrhoea has kept very satisfactorily low throughout the period. There was only one death from Enteric Fever in the five years. Influenza has taken a heavy toll each year and seems fairly established as one of the diseases exercising a decided influence on the death rate. During the year I wrote a short pamphlet on this disease, embodying the precautions necessary, which the Kent Insurance Committee have printed and are circulating to insured persons in the county.

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE.

The particulars of the Infantile Mortality for the year are set out in the following table. The rate, 58.9 per 1,000 births, is quite satisfactory, and compares favourably with the rate for England and Wales, 75 per 1,000 births.

District.	INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE, 1925.									
	BIRTHS.					DEATHS UNDER 1 YEAR.				
	Legitimate		Illegitim'e		Total	Legitimate		Illegitim'e		Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.	
BRIDGE R.D.	87	97	3	4	191	3	6	...	...	9
DOVER R.D.	59	56	3	2	120	6	1	...	...	7
EASTRY R.D.	108	112	8	4	232	6	9	...	1	16
E. KENT (No. 2)										
United Dist'ict	254	265	14	10	543	15	16	...	1	532
										58.9

England and Wales Infantile Mortality rate, 75 per 1,000.

I have tabulated the causes of death during the five years. It will be seen that the predominating cause is Prematurity of birth; this suggests the extreme necessity for ante-natal advice to prospective mothers. There can be no doubt that adequate supervision and advice during the period of gestation combined with any necessary treatment, would tend to lessen this cause of mortality. Chest complaints also bulk largely as a cause of death; these again are to a large extent preventable, and the supervision of the Health Visitors is being reflected in a reduced rate from this cause. The District has been pleasingly free from mortality due to Diarrhœa, which speaks well for the activities of the Sanitary Inspectors; nevertheless deaths from this cause *do* occur, and probably will occur, humanity being what it is. There is ample evidence that the work of the Health Visitors in regard to this complaint is bearing fruit, as in most districts the mortality from this cause has diminished greatly, as has that from Convulsions, always evidence of unsuitable dietary. At present it seems to be impossible to effect any change in the mortality from Congenital deformities and Congenital Heart Disease, although, doubtless, adequate ante-natal supervision will eventually result in a reduction of the rate from these causes also.

CAUSES OF DEATH	YEAR.				
	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Influenza	—	—	1	1	—
Meningitis	1	1	1	1	1
Congenital Heart disease	4	4	1	1	4
Bronchitis	1	1	2	1	1
Pneumonia, all forms	6	1	2	2	2
Premature birth ...	15	1	9	9	6
Congenital deformities	1	5	2	2	3
Convulsions	5	4	1	2	—
Diarrhoea	1	2	1	—	—
Trauma	1	—	3	—	—
Whooping cough ...	—	3	1	—	7
Other defined causes	7	3	7	6	8
Total	48	29	31	31	32

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

236 cases of Infectious Disease were notified during the year. As in the case of last year, the total is largely increased by the number of cases of Chicken-pox notified (85). The other Infectious Diseases notified were as follows: Diphtheria, 15 cases; Scarlet Fever, 25; Pneumonia, 22; Enteric Fever, 1; Erysipelas, 6; Encephalitis lethargica, 3; Malaria, 1; Tuberculosis of the Lungs, 57; and Tuberculosis of other organs, 21.

DIPHTHERIA.

Of the three cases which occurred in the Bridge area, two were infected by a relative who caught the disease at a party in another area. The third case was negative bacteriologically, and was in all probability merely a case of tonsilitis.

One of the two Dover cases was sent into the District in an infectious condition, while the other developed in the Duke of York's School, Guston.

The ten cases in the Eastry area were the result of a case which was about in an infectious condition for a week before medical aid was called in. The case was probably infected in Canterbury. Prompt swabbing revealed other cases in the school and in homes already infected. All the cases, with the exception of two, were isolated in hospital, with the result that no further spread of the infection occurred.

SCARLET FEVER.

Both the cases which occurred in the Bridge area were infected in Canterbury, where an extensive epidemic prevailed.

Four of the Dover cases occurred at the Duke of York's School, Guston, and were probably due to an undetected "carrier." Four others occurred at a private school at Wootton and were possibly due to infection in another

district, as a case was reported simultaneously in the home of one of the scholars. One other case was undoubtedly infected in London, another was diagnosed on the strength of being found in a peeling condition, while the other two possibly contracted the infection while travelling during the Christmas holidays.

Of the Eastry cases, two were due to infection acquired in Margate, and the remaining nine cases occurred at a private school in the Nonington area. This outbreak was annoying until eventually a child was discovered with nasal discharge and isolated, since when no further cases have arisen. The original infection was apparently acquired in London, but the history was rather vague.

PNEUMONIA.

The notifications of this disease are improving, but are still far from complete, as an examination of the death returns will prove. Many of the deaths have occurred in cases which have not been notified.

ENTERIC FEVER.

The District, fortunately, keeps very free from this complaint. The one case notified originated in Sandwich, outside the District.

ERYSIPelas.

Six cases were notified. It is questionable whether any useful purpose is served by continuing this as a notifiable disease. The diagnosis of numbers of the cases notified is very dubious.

ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA.

Three cases of this disease, two of which proved fatal, occurred. One of the two cases in the Dover area was probably infected in Oxford. The diagnosis of the other case was doubtful in my opinion. No source could be traced for the case which occurred in the Eastry area.

MALARIA.

The one case notified was infected abroad.

CHICKEN-POX.

This disease prevailed throughout the District, mainly in the Eastry area, but largely, during the latter part of the year, in the Bridge area also.

The tables appended show the age incidence of the various infectious diseases, the number of cases admitted to Hospital, and the deaths which were attributable to the several diseases. The table in regard to Tuberculosis shows the age and sex incidence both of new cases and deaths, while in addition the deaths are shown as they occurred among notified and non notified cases of the disease.

Disease.	District.	AGE.											Total.	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths.
		0	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45			
DIPHTHERIA	Bridge R.D....		1	1	1								3	2	
	Dover R.D. ...				1	1							2	2	
	Eastry R.D...		2	1	1	3		1	2				10	8	
SCARLET FEVER	East Kent (No. 2) United Dis.			3	1	3	5		1	2			15	12	
	Bridge R.D....					2							2	1	
	Dover R.D. ...	1	1	1	8				1				12	11	
PNEUMONIA	Eastry R.D...		1	1	5	3	1						11	9	
	East Kent (No. 2) United Dis.		1	1	2	8	11	1		1			25	20	
	Bridge R.D....					1	3	1	3	4	2		10		
ENTERIC FEVER	Dover R.D. ...	1						2	1	2	1		8	4	
	Eastry R.D...							1	1				4		
	East Kent (No. 2) United Dis	2	1			1	3	1	1	6	5	2	22	4	
ERYSIPelas	Bridge R.D....														
	Dover R.D. ...														
	Eastry R.D...														
ENCEPHAL- ITIS	East Kent (No. 2) United Dis.														
	Bridge R D....														
	Dover R.D. ...														
LETHARGICA	Eastry R.D...														
	East Kent (No. 2) United Dis.														
	Bridge R D....														
MALARIA	Dover R.D. ...														
	Eastry R.D...														
	East Kent (No. 2) United Dis.														
CHICKEN POX	Bridge R.D....		1	1	23		1						26		
	Dover R.D. ...						8	1					9	6	
	Eastry R.D...	4	4	4	3	6	22	6		1			50		
	East Kent (No. 2) United Dis.	4	5	4	4	6	45	14	2	1			85	6	

The following table shows the incidence of the various cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the five years under survey.

DISEASE.	YEAR.				
	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Diphtheria	77	18	20	8	15
Scarlet fever	33	46	22	31	25
Pneumonia	2	—	11	10	22
Enteric fever	2	4	3	2	1
Erysipelas	5	4	1	5	6
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—	1	3
Malaria	—	—	—	—	1
Chicken-pox	—	—	20	118	85
Puerperal fever ...	1	—	1	1	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	1	—	—
Polio-myelitis ...	—	—	1	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	1	2	—
Small-pox	—	—	—	3	—
Cerebro-Spinal fever .	—	—	—	1	—

DIPHTHERIA.

On taking over the District in 1921 I found that this disease was very prevalent and had been so for some time previous, especially in the Bridge area. Cases were occurring throughout the year and the mortality was high. Investigation suggested a local cause, probably infection due to "carriers" in the schools of the affected localities. Careful swabbing of some hundreds of children at the suspected schools revealed the existence of many "carriers" and sub-acute actual cases. It was obvious that drastic steps must be taken if the almost endemic conditions of the disease were to be checked and the mortality reduced. I found that although supplies of antitoxin were available, free of charge, for the use of local practitioners, little or none was being used. I therefore caused a supply to be furnished direct to practitioners. This supply is renewable on use and is replaced by the Sanitary Inspector on the expiry of its term of potency. By this means I hoped to encourage the administration of antitoxin prior to admission to Hospital and thus to reduce mortality. I also obtained the sanction of the Councils to making a payment of 2s. 6d. per swab to practitioners immediately swabbing contacts of cases which they found, thus making a considerable saving of time in ascertaining "carriers" in the remoter country areas. I caused all actual cases and positive carriers to be isolated in Hospital until proved to be free from infectivity. The result has been gratifying; there has been a complete change in the incidence and mortality of the disease during the five years under review. The mortality has fallen from 10.4 per cent. in 1921 to nil in 1925. The incidence has fallen from 77 in 1921 to 15 in 1925; the Bridge area is practically free from the disease, the incidence

having fallen from from 54 cases, with 7 deaths, in 1921, to 3 cases, with no deaths, in 1925. In 1921 the source of cases was in nearly every instance local infection, while in 1925 the infection, in every undoubted case of the disease, was directly traceable to infection from without the District. Whereas in, and prior to, 1921, cases had cropped up with fair regularity throughout the year in infected areas, now the outbreaks are very infrequent and disappear almost as soon as they arise. Prompt swabbing in schools exposed to infection, and isolation of "carriers," would appear to be a very efficient method of dealing with this disease. The expense of isolating "carriers" is much less than would be incurred in the isolation and treatment of the actual cases to which the carriers might give rise and the potential mortality is reduced to nil.

SCARLET FEVER.

This disease affects the District with fair regularity yearly; there appears to be a tendency to reduction in the incidence, and there is certainly a diminution in the virulence of the complaint. It is to this reduced severity that the regular prevalence of the disease may be ascribed; in many cases the illness caused by an attack is so slight that medical assistance is not called for and cases wander about infecting others. In nearly every instance where outbreaks have occurred in schools, investigation has revealed a "carrier" suffering from ear or nasal discharge, whose isolation has caused a cessation of the outbreak.

PNEUMONIA.

The actual incidence of this disease is not shown by the notifications received, many deaths being certified as due to the disease in cases which have not been notified; for instance, in 1922 no cases were notified, while 22 deaths were certified as due to the disease.

ENTERIC FEVER.

The District keeps comparatively free from this disease, fortunately, especially in the Eastry area, which possesses no accommodation for isolating any cases which may arise.

ERYSIPelas.

Very few cases of this trouble are notified annually, and the diagnosis in some of these is possibly erroneous.

ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA.

Until 1924 the District had not been visited by this complaint, of which one case was notified in 1924 and three in 1925.

MALARIA.

One case only of this complaint, contracted abroad, was notified during the five years. Considering the prevalence of Anopheline mosquitoes in many parts of the District and the occurrence of many cases of Malaria in the Richborough Camp during the war, the District is, perhaps, fortunate in this respect.

CHICKEN-POX.

Since this disease was made notifiable in the District in 1923, many cases have been notified. Several were of such a nature as to cause suspicion as to their being Small-pox, but all proved to be genuine Chicken-pox on investigation.

PUERPERAL FEVER.

The District has been remarkably free from notifications of this complaint, only three cases having been notified during the five years.

OPHTHALMIA NEO-NATORUM.

Only two cases were notified during the five years, both of which are noted as recovering without any detriment to the sight of the patients. The scanty notifications of the last two complaints speak highly for the efficiency of the work of the Midwives in the District.

POLIO-MYELITIS.

Only one case was notified.

DYSENTERY.

There were three notifications of cases which occurred in the Chatham Mental Hospital.

SMALL-POX.

Three cases, the result of infection from a Northern area, occurred in 1924. Vigorous action resulted in the outbreak being limited to these cases, which was distinctly providential when the condition of the District in regard to Vaccination is realised. I have examined several thousand children in the schools throughout the District and find that not more than 52 per cent. have been vaccinated. During the outbreak comparatively few of the inhabitants of this neighbourhood availed themselves of the offer of re-vaccination. The apathy and ignorance of the population in regard to this disease is remarkable, and it would seem indeed that only the occurrence of an extensive and fatal epidemic of the disease will awaken people to the tremendous possibilities awaiting the unvaccinated in this country.

CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER.

One case only was notified during the five years. This case was admitted to Hospital and proved to be a non-meningo-coccal infection, and was certified as dying of Cerebral Haemorrhage.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The table following shows the incidence of this disease during the five years, also the total deaths and the deaths among un-notified cases.

NOTIFICATION OF CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS
EAST KENT (No. 2) UNITED DISTRICT
1921—1925.

Year.	Lungs.	Other Organs.	Total.	Total Deaths.	Deaths in Non-notified Cases.
1921	41	5	46	31	20
1922	49	8	57	28	12
1923	84	16	100	34	8
1924	66	13	79	22	7
1925	57	21	78	30	10

It became obvious to me that notification of infectious diseases was incomplete in the area, and enquiries I made showed me that many medical men were ignorant as to what diseases are notifiable. Consequently I circularised the whole of the doctors practising in the District, calling their attention to the apparent slackness in notification and furnishing each doctor with a list of the notifiable diseases. The result was an immediate improvement in the receipt of notifications, but these are still far from complete, especially in the case of Pneumonia, Tuberculosis and Polio-myelitis. Possibly a communication from the Ministry of Health on the subject of notifications generally, addressed to practitioners, might have greater effect in improving the standard of notification.

CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS REMAINING ON REGISTER
DECEMBER 31st, 1925.

District.	MALE.		FEMALE.	
	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.
DOVER R.D. ...	51	7	31	8
EASTRY R.D. ...	27	2	8	6
BRIDGE R.D. ...	47	11	38	7
EAST KENT (No. 2) UNITED DISTRICT	125	20	77	21

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

No special arrangements have been made by the Authorities for this in the District. Health Visitors, employed by the County Authority, visit the District.

MIDWIVES.

The control of these is in the hands of the County Authority.

CHEMICAL WORK.

Samples for analysis are sent to the County Laboratory, Maidstone, where many samples of water, etc., have been examined during the period under review.

HOSPITALS.

TUBERCULOSIS.—There are none in the District.

MATERNITY.—There are none in the District.

CHILDREN.—There are no Hospitals for the treatment of children in the District.

GENERAL.—There are no General Hospitals in the District. Cases from the different areas requiring hospital treatment are admitted to the Kent and Canterbury, Deal and Dover Borough Hospitals.

FEVER.—*Bridge R.D.* possesses an Isolation Hospital situated at Bekesbourne. It is arranged for the concurrent treatment of three diseases: Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, and Enteric Fever. There are 36 beds, including five for observation purposes.

Dover R.D. has no Isolation Hospital of its own but Infectious cases are removed to the Dover Borough Isolation Hospital.

Eastry R.D. has an Isolation Hospital situated at Eastry. Two diseases only, Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever, can be treated concurrently. No provision is made for the isolation of cases of Enteric Fever nor for observation cases. There are 28 beds, and by arrangement cases from the Borough of Sandwich are admitted for treatment.

SMALL-POX.—Premises for the isolation of this disease are situated at Hammill, in the Eastry area. Here, cases which may arise in the Bridge, Deal, Eastry, Sandwich and Walmer areas will be dealt with, while cases arising in the Dover R.D. will be removed to the Dover Borough Small-pox Hospital.

There is no separate institutional provision made in the District for unmarried mothers or illegitimate infants, but in the Eastry R.D. there is a Cottage Home with accommodation for 23 children.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

(a) For infectious cases.—Horsed ambulances, in connection with the Isolation Hospitals, exist in the Bridge and Eastry R.D.'s. Attention has been drawn to the difficulties which arise in times of strain owing to the slowness of these vehicles and the trouble occasionally experienced in obtaining horses. In the Dover R.D. infectious cases are removed by the Dover Borough motor ambulances.

(b) For non-infectious cases.—No ambulances exist for these cases in the District, but motor ambulances can be obtained at a cost from Canterbury, Dover or Sandwich.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

None exist in the District. The arrangements for Maternity and Child Welfare work, treatment of school children, Tuberculosis and Venereal cases are in the hands of the County Authorities.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

These comprise :—

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, one, whole time.

SANITARY INSPECTORS :

Bridge R.D., one, whole time. This officer holds a Meat Inspector's Certificate.

Dover R.D., one, part time.

Eastry R.D., one, whole time.

The Eastry R.D. also employ the services of an Architect, who is of assistance to the Sanitary department in matters of drainage, etc.

Dover R.D. appointed a Veterinary Surgeon to act for the purposes of Meat Inspection towards the latter part of 1925.

HOUSING MATTERS.

In each of my previous reports I have stated that the Housing requirements of the District were not acute. In my report for 1923 I presented tabular statements which showed the position of each of the Parishes in regard to Housing accommodation.

In the course of this Report I wrote :—“A study of these tables indicates a proportion of overcrowding in each of the areas and also indicates the poor proportioning of the numbers of houses of various sizes available. It is safe to say, however, both from statistical information and personal investigation, that neither of these matters is really serious in any of the areas. In each of the areas comparatively few additional houses are required, but in each of the areas there are properties which, under favourable circumstances, should be replaced by new houses. These properties need constant supervision to ensure that they are kept in a state of repair to satisfy minimum sanitary requirements. . . .”

Further in the Report :—“ Nevertheless as soon as economically possible these premises must be replaced. At present such economic replacement is not possible and a very considerable loss would entail were such replacements made.”

Affairs in the Building trade are stabilising—prices are lower— there is a definite financial programme before Authorities and the time has arrived for steps to be taken to replace these unsuitable, uneconomic properties and to provide the comparatively few additional houses necessary for the District.

I am including below the tabular statement of Housing Statistics for the United District as published in my report for 1923.

HOUSING PARTICULARS

OF THE VARIOUS PARISHES IN THE UNITED DISTRICT
COMPILED FROM THE CENSUS FIGURES 1921, PUBLISHED 1923.

District.	Area in Acres.	Total Population	Persons per Acre	Private Families.	Population in Private Families.	Separate Dwellings Occupied.	Rooms Occupied.	Rooms per Person
BRIDGE R.D.	41,796	11,236	0.3	2,457	9,616	2,403	13,068	1.36
CIVIL PARISHES.								
Adisham	2,082	500	0.2	133	498	121	588	1.18
Barham	4,699	905	0.2	240	889	228	1,310	1.47
Bekesbourne	1,091	332	0.3	83	325	82	422	1.30
Bishopsbourne	2,023	304	0.2	81	285	79	506	1.78
Bridge	1,171	699	0.6	181	626	175	959	1.53
Chartham	4,570	2,959	0.6	396	1,616	389	2,012	1.25
Fordwich	426	305	0.7	67	304	67	348	1.14
Harbledown	1,644	896	0.5	194	767	193	1,145	1.49
Ickham	2,219	470	0.2	124	468	120	667	1.43
Kingston	1,242	219	0.2	49	219	49	246	1.12
Littlebourne	2,491	903	0.4	228	899	228	1,173	1.30
Lr. Hardres	1,180	247	0.2	60	247	60	322	1.30
Milton	403	7	0.02	2	7	2	19	2.71
Nackington	761	84	0.1	21	83	20	137	1.65
Patrington	1,559	232	0.1	51	231	52	302	1.31
Petham	3,338	562	0.2	137	546	135	793	1.45
S. Nicholas								
Hospital	70	27	0.4	18	27	18	48	1.78
Stodmarsh	699	109	0.2	28	109	28	144	1.32
Thanington								
Without	1,074	131	0.1	29	130	28	147	1.13
Up. Hardres	2,037	304	0.1	74	303	74	405	1.34
Waltham	3,236	303	0.1	85	301	84	437	1.45
W. Khambleaux	2,059	424	0.2	109	424	105	577	1.36
Womenswold	1,722	314	0.2	67	312	66	361	1.16
DOVER R.D.	27,121	8,873	0.3	1,884	7,352	1,846	10,130	1.38
CIVIL PARISHES.								
Alkham	3,215	608	0.2	141	576	138	767	1.33
Capel le Ferne	1,571	276	0.2	61	273	61	369	1.35
Coldred	1,552	133	0.1	33	132	33	161	1.22
Denton	1,184	153	0.1	38	152	38	230	1.51
E. Langdon	1,086	336	0.3	82	333	82	382	1.15
Guston	1,418	1,538	1.1	133	466	125	536	1.15
Hougham								
Without	2,263	440	0.2	100	408	100	504	1.24
Lydden	1,445	210	0.1	49	208	49	238	1.14
Oxney	319	22	0.1	4	22	4	22	1.00
Poulton	1,061	72	0.1	17	69	17	76	1.10
Ringwould	1,601	993	0.6	267	947	267	1,550	1.64
River	1,284	183	0.1	38	181	38	250	1.38
S. Margaret's	1,845	1,280	0.7	280	1,091	278	1,668	1.53
Sibertswold	1,850	850	0.5	216	842	207	1,165	1.38
Temple Ewell	1,600	1,034	0.6	252	969	241	1,280	1.32
Westcliffe	1,179	114	0.1	21	113	21	117	1.04
W. Langdon	706	96	0.1	27	95	25	130	1.37
Whitfield	913	372	0.4	95	368	93	530	1.44
Wootton	1,029	163	0.2	30	107	29	155	1.45
EASTRY R.D.	43,683	13,427	0.3	3,310	12,952	3,250	17,762	1.37
CIVIL PARISHES.								
Ash	7,021	2,049	0.3	552	2,041	552	2,955	1.45
Barfrestone	498	82	0.2	20	82	20	130	1.59
Bettleshanger	395	49	0.1	14	49	14	97	1.98
Chillenden	202	140	0.7	36	140	35	187	1.34
Eastry	2,734	1,457	0.5	294	1,134	292	1,528	1.35
Flinstone	439	93	0.2	20	93	20	97	1.04
Rythorne	1,323	929	0.7	211	917	198	1,090	1.19
Goodstone	1,864	438	0.2	108	435	106	613	1.41
Gt. Mongeham	784	409	0.5	108	409	105	545	1.33
Han	321	55	0.2	15	55	13	114	2.07
Knowlton	430	41	0.1	7	41	7	89	2.17
Lt. Mongeham	1,147	224	0.2	55	224	55	304	1.36
Nonington	3,808	887	0.2	218	873	213	1,148	1.31
Northbourne	3,660	788	0.2	185	788	184	953	1.21
Preston	1,489	505	0.3	127	499	127	598	1.20
Ripple	I 021	295	0.3	70	258	69	361	1.40
Sholden	1,813	670	0.4	151	616	150	831	1.35
Staple	1,010	447	0.4	118	447	118	604	1.35
Stourmouth	896	264	0.3	74	264	73	373	1.41
Sutton	1,072	144	0.1	35	144	35	207	1.44
Tilmanstone	1,150	347	0.3	81	347	79	441	1.27
Waldershare	1,020	128	0.1	33	128	30	212	1.66
Wingham	2,637	1,240	0.5	321	1,222	313	1,713	1.40
Woodnesboro'	2,941	965	0.3	245	965	239	1,262	1.31
Worth	4,008	781	0.2	212	781	203	1,310	1.68
BRIDGE R.D.	41,796	11,236	0.3	2,457	9,616	2,403	13,068	1.36
DOVER R.D.	27,121	8,873	0.3	1,884	7,352	1,846	10,130	1.38
EASTRY R.D.	43,683	13,427	0.3	3,310	12,952	3,250	17,762	1.37
EAST KENT (No. 2) UNITED DISTRICT.								
	112,600	33,536	0.29	7,651	29,920	7,499	40,960	1.36
COUNTY OF KENT.	975,965	1,141,666	1.2	252,936	1,035,446	230,746	1,292,020	1.25
KENT RURAL DISTRICTS.	850,038	323,111	0.4	72,531	297,101	70,192	374,511	1.26

HOUSING PARTICULARS OF THE VARIOUS PARISHES IN
THE UNITED DISTRICT COMPILED FROM THE CENSUS
FIGURES, 1921, PUBLISHED 1923.

Separate Dwellings Occupied by Private Families.

	Number of Families.	Number of Rooms per House.				Total.
		1—3	4—5	6—8	9 or more	
BRIDGE R.D.	1	234	1,473	454	190	2,351
	2	1	23	21	5	50
	3			2		2
	Total	235	1,496	477	195	2,403
DOVER R.D.	1	194	965	507	146	1,812
	2		11	14	5	30
	3			3	1	4
	Total	194	976	524	152	1,846
EASTRY R.D.	1	214	1,956	804	218	3,192
	2	1	16	19	20	56
	3			2		2
	Total	215	1,972	825	238	3,250
EAST KENT (No. 2) UNITED DISTRICT	1	647	4,394	1,765	554	7,360
	2	2	50	54	30	136
	3			7	1	8
	Total	649	4,444	1,826	585	7,504

It is exceedingly difficult to give an estimate of the requirements of the District in the way of extra house accommodation. In the event of the building of the new colliery towns there can be no doubt that quite a number of premises in each of the areas, now occupied by colliery workers, will be vacated by them and so freed for occupation by other inhabitants. As I have said in previous reports, there are houses in each of the areas which should be condemned and replaced by new premises. Energetic action on the part of the Sanitary Inspectors has resulted in the re-conditioning of many houses during the five years, in several instances at considerable expense to the owners. In these cases it would be manifestly unjust to insist on the condemnation of the premises; in fact it would, now, be difficult if not impossible to obtain an order. The following is the number of houses in each of the areas which should be replaced by new buildings:—

Bridge R.D.	...	32
Dover R.D.	...	30
Eastry R.D.	...	45

There appears to be need for additional accommodation in the areas as follows:—

Bridge R.D.	...	40
Dover R.D.	...	Nil.
Eastry R.D.	...	78

These numbers will undoubtedly be reduced as the new towns are built. To further complicate the calculation is the fact that many new houses have been completed during the five years, although it must be stated that a large proportion of these have been erected for private owners and do not serve to meet the demands of the poorer classes.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

During the five years no complaints have been received as to fouling of the streams in the District.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

There is no main drainage in the District except at Ash in the Eastry area, where there is a sewerage system and sewage farm to which about 107 w.c.'s are connected, and at Harbledown, in the Bridge area, which has a sewer and sewage works to which about 250 w.c.'s are connected. Trouble has been experienced at the Harbledown works in respect to offensive smell; there is an increasing number of premises connecting with this system and the District Council should consider an enlargement of the system in order to minimise the nuisance and to improve the effluent which at present is of doubtful character.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The table below shows the approximate condition of the District in this regard :—

District.	Closets connected to		Pail Closets.	Earth Closets and Privies.
	Sewers.	Cesspools.		
BRIDGE R.D.	...	250	550	1,395
DOVER R.D.	...		515	1,351
EASTRY R.D.	...	107	614	2,531
				218
				136
				131

It will be seen that comparatively few privies exist in the District and these are being converted to the pail system or to w.c.'s connected to cesspools when practicable. In the area surrounding the Margate Water Works at Wingham all cesspools have been made impervious and their contents are removed by employees of the Margate Corporation and distributed on the surface of land in the vicinity. No new cesspools are allowed to be constructed in the District unless of the impervious variety.

WATER SUPPLY.

Taken as a whole, the District is well served by Public water supplies. Nevertheless, as might be expected in a Rural District, there is a large proportion of isolated houses scattered about the area not supplied from Public sources. Rather over one third of existing premises are so situated.

The accompanying table indicates the position in this respect at the end of 1925. In the Bridge area the Parishes of Chartham, Upper and Lower Hardres, Petham and Waltham are entirely without supplies from mains. Petham and Waltham suffered severely during the period of drought. In the Dover area, Capel le Ferne, Denton, Poulton and Wootton Parishes are entirely without main supplies, while Hougham Parish is very poorly supplied. In the Eastry area the Parishes of Ham and Staple are entirely without main supplies, while Mongeham, Northbourne and Sholden are but poorly supplied. In my opinion the question of a main supply for Staple should be seriously considered; complaints have been received in regard to the quality of the water from some of the wells, and, while not actually to be condemned, it is safe to say that the water is far from satisfactory in some instances. It should be possible to supply the village from either the Margate or Sandwich mains.

Number of Persons in Family.	Number of Private Families occupying the following Number of Rooms.								Total Private Families	Rooms occupied	Average Number of rooms per person	
	1	2	3	4	5	6-7	8-9	10 & over				
BRIDGE R.D.												
1	14	31	33	55	20	10	4	5	172	654	3.80	
2	4	31	49	210	127	74	28	12	535	2,543	2.38	
3		13	45	176	144	67	41	20	506	2,591	1.71	
4	1	6	31	164	116	64	30	19	431	2,232	1.29	
5		3	17	101	80	44	31	33	309	1,825	1.18	
6			10	83	68	37	12	19	229	1,328	0.97	
7			4	35	44	19	15	14	131	814	0.89	
8			5	19	21	13	3	13	74	476	0.80	
9			1	9	11	7	2	6	36	256	0.79	
10				2	8	5		6	21	154	0.73	
11					5		1		6	33	0.50	
12					1		1		2	13	0.54	
13								1	1	34	2.62	
14												
15 and over									4	4	115	1.72
Total Private Families.	19	84	195	854	645	340	168	152	2,457			
Population in Private Families	26	171	612	3,160	2,700	1,407	700	840				
Rooms Occupied	19	168	585	3,416	3,225	2,156	1,388	2,111		13,068	1.36	
	0.8	3.4	7.9	34.8	26.3	13.8	6.8	6.2	=1921			
	0.5	2.4	5.2	38.5	25.8	13.9	6.8	6.9	=1911			
DOVER R.D.												
1	10	15	15	37	9	14	2	3	105	421	4.01	
2	4	25	46	133	75	87	15	7	392	1,856	2.37	
3		23	33	138	97	107	34	18	450	2,344	1.74	
4		11	27	101	84	73	32	12	340	1,799	1.32	
5		4	22	71	56	52	19	20	244	1,375	1.13	
6			7	40	45	29	22	10	153	935	1.02	
7			4	19	32	15	13	4	87	495	0.81	
8			1	8	13	15	12	8	57	401	0.88	
9			1	8	6	2	5	9	31	266	0.95	
10				1	2	3	2	3	11	84	0.76	
11				1	3	1	2	4	11	111	0.92	
12							1		1	8	0.67	
13												
14									2	2	35	1.25
15 and over												
Total Private Families.	14	78	156	557	422	398	159	100	1,884			
Population in Private Families	18	198	511	2,006	1,771	1,519	775	554				
Rooms Occupied	14	156	468	2,228	2,110	2,540	1,315	1,299		10,130	1.38	
	0.7	4.1	8.3	29.7	22.4	21.1	8.4	5.3	=1921			
	0.6	2.9	5.6	33.3	21.6	19.3	10.3	6.4	=1911			
EASTRY R.D.												
1	16	34	25	89	19	17	1	3	204	758	3.72	
2	4	33	47	267	177	134	22	17	701	3,402	2.43	
3	1	17	30	250	217	156	49	30	750	3,954	1.76	
4	2	14	21	186	190	131	39	38	621	3,419	1.38	
5		4	13	129	120	88	25	21	400	2,177	1.09	
6			6	61	85	58	24	21	255	1,517	0.99	
7		1	10	51	40	42	20	19	183	1,113	0.87	
8			2	15	32	17	9	3	78	442	0.71	
9			2	9	19	14	5	9	58	453	0.87	
10				5	12	8	6	3	34	211	0.62	
11					4	4	2	1	11	85	0.70	
12						3	1	5	9	121	1.12	
13						1	2		4	20	0.38	
14												
15 and over									2	2	90	2.65
Total Private Families.	23	103	156	1,063	917	673	203	172	3,310			
Population in Private Families	35	234	498	3,749	3,791	2,794	968	883				
Rooms Occupied	23	206	468	4,252	4,585	4,203	1,674	2,351		17,762	1.37	
	1.0	3.2	8.6	25.7	24.6	22.2	9.6	5.1	=1921			
	0.5	2.9	4.4	30.0	23.1	22.4	10.6	6.1	=1911			

* Percentage of Families living in various units of occupation.

EAST KENT (No. 2) UNITED DISTRICT.

PARTICULARS AS TO WATER SUPPLY.

Parish.	Premises connected to		Number of Houses Census 1921	Water Company.
	Mains.	Wells, etc.		
BRIDGE R.D.				
Adisham	121		121	Margate Corporation.
Barham	190	38	228	Mid-Kent.
Bekesbourne	78	4	82	Margate Corporation.
Bishopsbourne	70	9	79	Margate Corporation.
Bridge	171	4	175	Margate Corporation.
Chartham		389	389	(Local wells).
Fordwich	67		67	Roman well to main.
Harbledown	100	93	193	Canterbury.
Ickham	115	5	120	Margate Corporation.
Kingstone	47	2	49	Mid-Kent.
Littlebourne	220	8	228	Margate Corporation.
Lr. Hardres		60	60	(Local wells).
Milton		2	2	(Local wells).
Nackington	18	2	20	Canterbury.
Patrinxbourne	52		52	Margate Corporation.
Petham		135	135	(Local wells).
St. Nicholas Hospital	18		18	Canterbury.
Stodmarsh		28	28	(Parish well).
Thanington Without	6	22	28	Canterbury.
Up. Hardres		74	74	(Wells and rain).
Walham		84	84	(Wells and rain).
Wickhambereaux	98	7	105	Margate Corporation.
Womenswold	66		66	Mid-Kent.
Houses constructed since 1921		110	110	
DOVER R.D.				
Alkham	40	98	138	Folkestone.
Capel le Ferne	1	60	61	Folkestone, Wells, Rain.
Coldred	18	15	33	East Kent.
Denton		38	38	(Private wells).
E. Langdon	70	12	82	East Kent.
Guston	125		125	East Kent.
Hougham, Without	8	92	100	{ Dover Corporation, (Public and private well).
Lydden	33			East Kent, Folkestone.
Oxney	11	5	49	
Poulton	2	2	4	East Kent.
Kingwould		17	17	(Wells and rain).
River	290		267	East Kent.
St. Margaret's	46		38	" "
Sibertswold	305		278	" "
Temple Ewell	219		207	" "
West Cliffe	151	90	241	" "
W. Langdon	11	10	21	" "
Whitfield	16	9	25	" "
Wootton	91	2	93	" "
Houses constructed since 1921		29	29	(Wells and rain).
		86	156	
EASTRY R.D.				
Ash	364	205	552	Sandwich Corporation.
Barfrestone	21		20	East Kent.
Betteshanger	10	4	14	Estate mains.
Chillenden	28	7	35	Margate Corporation.
Eastry	221	88	292	Three from streams, Sandwich Corporation.
Elmstone	12	8	20	Margate Corporation.
Eythorne	192	11	198	East Kent.
Goodnestone	73	33	106	Margate Corporation.
Ham		13	13	(Wells, three from stream).
Knowlton	7		7	Margate Corporation.
Mongeham, Great	27	87	105	East Kent.
Mongeham, Little	40	15	55	Margate Corporation.
Nonington	169	54	213	Margate Corporation.
Northbourne	40			Estate mains.
	59	103	184	East Kent.
Preston	94	38	127	Margate Corporation.
Ripple	21			Deal.
	48	6	69	East Kent.
Sholden	72	81	150	Eight to streams, Deal.
Staple		118	118	(Local wells).
Stourmouth	47	28	73	Margate Corporation.
Sutton	34	6	35	East Kent.
Tilmanstone	72	7	79	" "
Waldershare	2		30	East Kent, estate mains.
Wingham	30			Two to streams.
Woodnesborough	164	80	239	Margate Corporation.
Worth	155	69	203	Sandwich Corporation.
Houses constructed since 1921			133	Sandwich Corporation.
Total, approx.	5,144	2,754	7,898	

SCAVENGING.

Details in respect of this will be found under the appropriate heading in the Reports on the various areas.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

A summary of the work of the Sanitary Inspectors will be found under the appropriate heading in the Reports on the various areas.

SCHOOLS IN THE DISTRICT.

These have all been visited and inspected twice during the year. Their general cleanliness and sanitary condition was found satisfactory. The health and physical condition of the scholars inspected was quite good and well up to the standard for the County as a whole. The control of infectious disease in regard to school closure, etc, is in the hands of the School Medical Officer, Maidstone. As I act as Medical Inspector of all the schools in the District and all cases of infectious disease which occur are notified to me, I experience no difficulty in dealing with any trouble which may arise. In the control of Diphtheria especially, I find my close association with the school work of the very greatest assistance.



BRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT.

To the Chairman and Members of the Bridge Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Fifth Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary condition of your District for the year 1925.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

Physical Features and General Character of the District.

The District is bounded roughly as follows : On the North by the Urban District of Canterbury and the River Stour, separating it from the Rural District of Blean. On the East by the Rural District of Eastry. On the South by the Rural Districts of Dover and Elham and on the West by the Rural Districts of East Ashford and Faversham.

The surface of the District is undulating; its highest point, in the S.W., being some 500 feet above O.D., while the lowest point, in the N.E., is only about 8 feet above O.D. The surface soil is mainly loamy and immediately overlies the chalk in varying thickness. In the N.E. part of the District, in the Stodmarsh area, there is a considerable acreage of marshland. The eastern side of the District overlies the western margin of the Kent coal field, and borings show the existence of workable coal in this part. Other bores indicate that a portion of the proved iron ore-field underlies the District.

Social Conditions and Chief Occupations of the Inhabitants.

An examination of the Table of Occupations printed in the Report on the United District shows that the Bridge Rural District is mainly Agricultural at present. The only industry of any importance is a Paper Mill at Chartham. There is a fair proportion of higher class residents and there seems a tendency for middle-class persons from adjoining towns to build in the District for residential purposes. It is probable that there will be industrial development along the Eastern side of the District in the near future.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

AREA AND POPULATION.

The annexed table gives particulars of the above.

District.	Area in Acres, including Inland Water.	POPULATION.	
		Estimated by Registrar-General	For Birth Rate. For Death Rate.
BRIDGE R.D.	41,796	11,340	11,340

There is the usual small "natural increase" in the population owing to the excess of births over deaths during the year. There has obviously been some slight immigration but it is impossible to say definitely what the effect of migration has been on the population as a whole.

Rateable value	...	...	...	£74,288	0	0
Sum represented by a penny rate	...			£245	19	4
Amount of Out Relief administered during 1925	...	...	...	£1,565	6	2
Number of inhabited houses (1921)	...				2,403	
Number of families or separate occupiers (1921)	...	...	...		2,457	

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.

The tabular statement annexed shows all particulars regarding the births in the District during the year.

District.	Estimated Population	BIRTHS.						Birth Rate.	Legitimate Births % of Total Births		
		Legitimate		Illegitimate		Total					
		Male	Female	Male	Female						
BRIDGE R.D....	11,340	87	97	3	4	191		16.84	3.6		

There is a satisfactory increase in the number of births and in the birth rate for the year. The figures for the five years are shown in the following table.

Year.	Total.	Legitimate.		Illegitimate.		Rate per 1,000
		M.	F.	M.	F.	
1921	218	108	103	3	4	19.39
1922	199	87	105	4	3	17.68
1923	205	107	88	7	3	18.17
1924	177	83	86	3	5	15.74
1925	191	87	97	3	4	16.84

DEATHS.

The corrected nett number of deaths registered in the District during the year was 146; 77 males and 69 females, producing a crude death rate of 12.87 per 1,000. This shows a rise on the rate for 1924 and is slightly higher than the general rate for the Kingdom.

DEATH RATE.				
District.	Year.	Population.	Deaths.	Death Rate per 1,000.
BRIDGE R.D. ...	1925	Estimated 11,340	146	12.87
Death Rate, England and Wales, 12.2 per 1,000.				

Applying the standardising factor to the crude death rate produces a standard death rate of 9.30 per 1,000, which is eminently satisfactory.

The comparative figures for the five years are given in the following table:—

Year.	Total Deaths.	Rate per 1,000.	Rate England and Wales.
1921	124	11.03	12.1
1922	137	12.17	12.9
1923	144	12.76	11.6
1924	114	10.14	12.2
1925	146	12.87	12.2

BRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN YEAR 1925.

Causes of Death. (Civilians only).	Males.	Females.
All Causes	77	69
1. Enteric fever		
2. Small-pox		
3. Measles		
4. Scarlet fever		
5. Whooping cough	1	1
6. Diphtheria		
7. Influenza		4
8. Encephalitis lethargica		
9. Meningococcal meningitis		
10. Tuberculosis of respiratory system	4	5
11. Other tuberculous disease	2	2
12. Cancer, malignant disease	11	12
13. Rheumatic fever	1	
14. Diabetes		
15. Cerebral Haemorrhage	4	8
16. Heart disease	13	13
17. Arterio-sclerosis	4	1
18. Bronchitis	3	1
19. Pneumonia (all forms)	3	3
20. Other respiratory diseases	1	
21. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	2	
22. Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)		1
23. Appendicitis and typhlitis		
24. Cirrhosis of liver	1	
25. Acute and chronic nephritis	1	2
26. Puerperal sepsis		
27. Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition		
28. Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth	2	5
29. Suicide		
30. Other deaths from violence	1	1
31. Other defined diseases	23	10
32. Causes ill-defined or unknown		
Special Causes (included above) :		
Poliomyelitis	1	
Polioencephalitis		

There was a substantial increase in the nett number of deaths registered during the year : Influenza (4), Tuberculosis (13), other Respiratory Diseases (10), Heart Disease (26), and Cancer (23), causing 54.7 per cent of the total deaths.

After eliminating the deaths of infants under one year of age, the average age at death of the remainder registered works out at 59.3 years.

101 of the 146 deaths were of persons over 50.

12 were between 50 and 60.

28 „ „ 60 „ 70.

35 „ „ 70 „ 80.

21 „ „ 80 „ 90.

4 „ „ 90 „ 100.

1 was over 100.

The incidence of the common causes of death during the five years is given in the table which follows :—

CAUSE.	YEAR.				
	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Tuberculosis	11	8	15	11	13
Diseases of Respiration ...	11	20	27	9	10
Heart disease	19	17	14	9	26
Cancer	14	20	21	21	23
Parturition	—	—	3	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping cough	—	2	—	—	2
Scarlet fever	—	1	—	—	—
Diphtheria	7	—	—	—	—
Enteric fever	—	—	—	1	—
Influenza	2	14.	4	8	4

The figures dealt with in the table are small and should not be dogmatized on, but it would appear that the Tuberculosis rate is practically stationary, perhaps tending to diminish slightly. Deaths from diseases of the respiratory organs appear to depend largely on climatic conditions and to ebb and flow accordingly. Deaths from Heart Disease are apparently increasing slightly. Deaths from Cancer do not point to any marked increase in the District incidence of this complaint. The District has been very free from deaths among lying-in females, which speaks well for the work of the midwives practising in the area. The only feature in the Zymotic mortality figures is the extremely satisfactory cessation of the deaths from Diphtheria, which is co-incident with a marked diminution in the incidence of the

disease during the five years. Influenza takes its yearly toll varying with the severity of incidence. It is a disease which, in my opinion, merits at least as much attention from a public health point of view as do any of the other infectious complaints.

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE.

The particulars in respect of the Infantile Mortality for the year are shown below in tabular form. The rate, while higher than that for 1924, is satisfactory, and well below that for the kingdom.

District.	BIRTHS.						DEATHS UNDER 1 YEAR						Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births.	
	Legitimate		Illegitimate		Total	Legitimate		Illegitimate		Total				
	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.		
BRIDGE R.D.	87	97	3	4	191	3	6	—	—	9	47.12			

England and Wales Infantile Mortality Rate, 75 per 1,000.

The causes of death in the nine cases certified in infants under one year of age were as follows :—

	Male.	Female.
Congenital heart disease
Premature birth	...	2
Congenital deformities
Whooping cough
Other defined causes	...	1

The tabular statement appended shows the causes of death during the five years :—

CAUSES OF DEATH.	YEAR.				
	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Influenza	...	2	1		
Meningitis	...				
Congenital heart disease	...	1			1
Bronchitis	...	1	2		
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	2	1	1	
Premature birth	...	4	2	4	4
Congenital deformities	...		1	1	1
Convulsions	...	1			
Diarrhoea	...	1	1	1	
Trauma	...			2	
Whooping cough	...		1		1
Other defined causes	...	4	3	3	2
Total	...	12	10	14	9

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES OCCURRING DURING THE YEAR 1925.

Seventy-four notifications of cases of infectious disease were received during the year. These were : 3 cases of Diphtheria, 2 Scarlet Fever, 10 Pneumonia, 4 Erysipelas, 1 Malaria, 26 Chicken-pox, 20 Tuberculosis of the Lungs and 8 Tuberculosis of other organs. The tabular statements which follow show the age, and, in the case of Tuberculosis, sex incidence of these. The table for Tuberculosis shows in addition the deaths from the disease as they occurred among notified and non-notified cases.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED.

Disease.	AGE PERIODS.											Total	Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
	0	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45			
Diphtheria				1		1	1					3	2	
Scarlet Fever						2						2	1	
Pneumonia							1		3	4	2	10		
Enteric Fever														
Erysipelas									1	1	1	1	4	
Encephalitis Lethargica														
Malaria								1				1		
Chicken-pox	1		1		23		1					26		

BRIDGE R.D.

TUBERCULOSIS NOTIFICATIONS, 1925.

Age Period.	NEW CASES				DEATHS.							
	NOTIFIED.				NOTIFIED CASES.				NON-NOTIFIED CASES.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0												
1									1			1?
5	1		2									
10	3		2	1								
15	1				1	1						1
20	3	1			1	3						
25	4	2					1		1	1		
35	1	1						1				
45	1		1									1
55	2				1							
65 and up- ward												
Total	16	4	5	3	3	5	1	1	1	3	1?	

DIPHTHERIA.

Three cases only were notified, two of which were infected from a case originating in an adjoining district, while the third was in all probability not Diphtheria.

SCARLET FEVER.

Two cases were notified; one of these was undoubtedly infected in Canterbury, where air epidemic was prevalent, and possibly the other was also.

PNEUMONIA.

Ten cases were notified. The notifications of this disease are becoming more complete but there is still much room for improvement in this.

MALARIA.

The one case notified contracted the disease abroad.

CHICKEN POX.

Twenty-six cases were notified during the year but the disease has practically abated.

The table annexed shows the incidence of the various infectious diseases during the five years.

The most noteworthy features revealed by this table are the great drop in the cases of Diphtheria and Scarlet fever; the complete freedom of the District from Encephalitis Lethargica, Polio-myelitis, Cerebro-Spinal fever and Small-pox and the fact that no cases of Puerperal fever have been notified, which speaks volumes for the efficient work of the Midwives practising in the District.

BRIDGE R.D.

INCIDENCE OF THE VARIOUS INFECTIOUS DISEASES
DURING THE FIVE YEARS 1921-1925.

DISEASE.	YEAR.				
	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Diphtheria	54	14	3	4	3
Scarlet fever	22	18	10	4	2
Pneumonia	-	-	4	5	10
Enteric fever	1	1	2	1	-
Erysipelas	2	-	-	3	4
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	-	-	-	-	-
Malaria	-	-	-	-	1
Chicken-pox	-	-	15	20	26
Puerperal fever	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	1	-	1	-	-
Polio-myelitis	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	1	2	-
Small-pox	-	-	-	-	-
Cerebro-Spinal fever ...	-	-	-	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS.

Twenty-eight cases were notified. Notification of this disease is still incomplete, as the five deaths registered in non-notified cases proves. The table following shows the incidence of this disease during the five years :—

Year.	Lungs.	Other Organs.	Total.	Total Deaths.	Deaths in Non-notified Cass.
1921	15	1	16	11	8
1922	16	3	19	8	4
1923	35	3	38	14	2
1924	30	8	38	11	3
1925	20	8	28	15	5

CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS REMAINING ON REGISTER, BRIDGE R.D., DECEMBER 31st, 1925.					
MALE.			FEMALE.		
Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.		
51	7	31	8		

HOSPITALS.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—The Council possesses an Isolation Hospital, arranged for the concurrent treatment of three diseases, situated at Bekesbourne.

SMALL-POX.—By arrangement with the Eastry Rural District Council cases of this disease will be removed to the Small-pox Hospital, situated at Hammill in the Eastry Rural District.

GENERAL.—There is no General Hospital situated in the District, but cases requiring treatment are received in the Kent and Canterbury Hospital.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE, TREATMENT OF SCHOOL CHILDREN, TUBERCULOSIS, VENEREAL DISEASE.—Arrangements are in the hands of the County Authorities.

AMBULANCE ACCOMMODATION.

The Council possesses a Horse Ambulance for the removal of infectious cases. I am in receipt of complaints from the Sanitary Inspector in regard to undue delay on occasions in this service, owing to difficulty in obtaining the horse and slowness of transport. The Council should consider the provision of a Motor Ambulance, either of its own, or, in conjunction with other authorities.

There is no Ambulance in the District for the conveyance of non-infectious cases, but Ambulances for this purpose can be obtained from Canterbury.

LABORATORY ACCOMMODATION.

Pathological, Bacteriological and Chemical specimens are submitted for examination to the County Laboratory, Maidstone.

DIPHTHERIA ANTITOXIN.

The Council supply this free of charge; each doctor practising in the District is supplied personally with the antitoxin and the supply is renewed on request when exhausted.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

- (a) General.
- (b) For Infectious Diseases.

No arrangements have been made by the Council for this.

INSTITUTIONAL PROVISION FOR UNMARRIED MOTHERS, ILLEGITIMATE INFANTS AND HOMELESS CHILDREN.

No special arrangements have been made by the Council.

GENERAL HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT DURING THE YEAR.

The general health of the District during the year was quite good; no epidemic arose of sufficient extent to merit your special attention. In fact, considering the somewhat excessive prevalence of Scarlet fever and Diphtheria throughout the Country towards the end of the year, the District was surprisingly free from trouble.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

The following is a summary of the work of the Sanitary Department, and action taken under the Public Health Acts or byelaws during the year:—

ADOPTIVE ACTS IN FORCE.

Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890. (Since March 25th, 1891)
Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, Part III., 1890. (Since March 25th, 1891).

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

The Staff consists of the Medical Officer of Health and one whole-time Sanitary Inspector, who holds a Meat Inspector's Certificate.

RURAL DISTRICT OF BRIDGE, 1925.

No. of Inspectors of Nuisances, 1 whole-time, nil part-time. Total number of visits paid by Inspector during the year, 822.

Places Inspected.	No. in District.	No. of visits in 1925.	No. of defects found.	No. of defects remedied.
Bakehouses	10	29	3	3
Dairies				
Cowsheds	47	68	3	2
Milkshops				
Slaughterhouses : Registered	7	318	5	5
Licensed				
Common Lodging Houses ...	Nil	-	-	-
Houses let in Lodgings ...	Nil	-	-	-
Factories 2				
Workshops 20	24	26	-	-
Workplaces 2				

Nuisances found or reported during the year (other than those above stated).

Nature.	Number Investigated	* Number Abated.
Overcrowding	3	3
Offensive Trades	Nil	
Keeping of Animals ...	1	1
Sanitary Accommodation ...	6	6 Including 10 conversions of Type
Drainage	9	8
Dustbins	Nil	
Others	7	7 * Including also nuisances investigated in 1924 and remedied in 1925.

Numbers of each type of Sanitary Convenience in District (Approximate).

W.C.'s—						
(a) into Drainage System	...	...	...	...	250	
(b) into Cesspools	...	...	...	...	550	
Earth Closets or Privy Middens	...	...	...	...	218	
Pail Closets	...	...	...	...	1,395	

Notices served (a) Statutory, 30; (b) Informal, 33. Number of premises disinfected, 20. Number of batches of clothing, etc., disinfected, 5.

During the year 10 privy middens or objectionable types of closet were converted to the pail system.

The BAKEHOUSES (10), DAIRIES, COWSHEDS and MILKSHOPS (47) in the District were frequently visited during the year. A small number of minor defects were found and remedied.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

There are seven registered and no licensed private slaughter houses in the District; 318 visits were paid during the year, mainly during times of slaughtering. Five minor defects found were remedied. Three cwts., 19lbs. of unsound meat was surrendered and condemned during the year.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

The Council is not an authority under this.

The FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS and WORK PLACES were inspected and found to be in sanitary condition and well conducted.

DISINFECTION OF INFECTED ARTICLES.

This is carried out, under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector, at the disinfecter at the Isolation Hospital, Bekesbourne.

UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES.

A total of 107 houses came under inspection during the year under the Public Health or Housing Acts; 48 of these were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925. Four were found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation, while 34 others were found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.

Four Closing Orders were made under the Housing Act, 1925, and became operative. Notices under the Housing Act, 1925, and the Public Health Acts were served in 30 instances and in all cases the owners carried out the necessary repairs. Four premises were rendered fit as the result of informal action.

No demolition orders were made and no premises demolished during the year.

Thirty-three new houses were erected during the year, two of which were erected by private persons with State assistance under the Housing Acts.

HOUSING MATTERS.

A reference to the tables printed in the Report on the United District will show the condition of the District in this regard as revealed by the Census returns published 1923. The figures were obtained in 1921. It is safe to say that there was no acute shortage of accommodation in 1921, and it is likely that what shortage did exist was caused by the arrival in the District of a certain number of miners with their families; (a reference to the table of occupations printed in the Report on the United District shows that there were 118 miners in the District in 1921). It would appear that most of these families will move to the new colliery towns when built, thus vacating existing premises for occupation by other families. In these circumstances it is difficult to make any reliable statement as to the actual shortage of houses in the District.

Many of the houses found to be so defective at the time of inspection as to suggest that they should be condemned, have been re-conditioned, thanks to energetic action on the part of the Sanitary Inspector, and are no longer in an unsatisfactory state. Considerable sums have been expended on repairs and alterations in several instances and many of these old houses are now better premises than some of the newer buildings erected of late years.

Since 1921 new houses have been built in the District as follows :—

1921	...	...	17
1922	...	...	16
1923	...	...	13
1924	...	...	31
1925	...	...	33
<hr/>			
Total	...	...	110

While undoubtedly, a number of these houses have been built for persons who have recently come to the District from adjoining areas and who are not members of the "working classes," yet some of the older houses have been vacated and some of the working classes housed in consequence.

I have gone into the whole question with the Sanitary Inspector and we are of opinion that to replace properties which should be condemned there is need in the various Parishes of the following number of houses :—

Adisham	...	...	3
Barham	...	...	3
Bridge	...	...	4
Chartham	...	...	2
Kingstone	...	...	1
Petham	...	...	8
Stodmarsh	...	...	2
Up. Hardres	...	...	1

There are an additional 8 houses in Littlebourne and Wickhambreaux which are a cause of constant supervision and it is a question whether they can be economically kept in an adequate state of repair.

While acknowledging the apparent present need of some 40 additional houses in the District, we feel extremely diffident in suggesting that such a number is an actual necessity for the District for the reasons mentioned above. I feel certain, from experience in adjoining Districts, that with the aid of the State subsidies and assistance from the Council in the way of loans, the needs of the District would be met by private enterprise.

WATER SUPPLY.

I append a table showing the condition of each of the Parishes in regard to water supply. It will be observed that Chartham, Lr. Hardres, Milton, Petham, Stodmarsh, Up. Hardres and Waltham are entirely without main supplies, as are a large number of premises in Harbledown and Thanington Without. The Council should consider seriously the question of obtaining public supplies for these areas. Several of these areas suffered severely during the recent droughts and the well supplies in the Stodmarsh area are always a source of anxiety to me.

BRIDGE R.D.

PARTICULARS AS TO WATER SUPPLY.

Parish.	Mains.	Wells, etc.	No. of Houses Census 1921.	Water Company.
Adisham	121		121	Margate Corporation.
Barham	190	38	228	Mid Kent.
Bekesbourne	78	4	82	Margate Corporation.
Bishopsbourne	70	9	79	„ „
Bridge	171	4	175	„ „
Chartham		389	389	(Local wells).
Fordwich	67		67	Roman well to mains.
Harbledown	100	93	193	Canterbury.
Ickham	115	5	120	Margate Corporation.
Kingstone	47	2	49	Mid Kent.
Littlebourne	220	8	228	Margate Corporation.
Lr. Hardres		60	60	(Local wells).
Milton		2	2	„ „
Nackington	18	2	20	Canterbury.
Patrixbourne	52		52	Margate Corporation.
Petham		135	135	(Local wells).
St. Nicholas Hospital ...	18		18	Canterbury.
Stodmarsh		28	28	(Parish well).
Thanington W.	6	22	28	Canterbury.
Up. Hardres		74	74	(Wells and rain water).
Waltham		84	84	„ „ „ „
Wickhambereaux	98	7	105	Margate Corporation.
Womenswold	66		66	Mid Kent.
Houses constructed since 1921		110	110	
Total, approx.	1,437	1,076	2,513	

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

There is no main drainage in the District except at Harbledown which has a public sewer and sewage works of its own and where some houses are connected with the Canterbury sewers.

Trouble has been experienced at the Harbledown sewage works in respect of offensive smell. The available ground at the works is saturated; the Council should consider the installation of a sedimentation tank to assist the filter beds and so minimise the nuisance by improving the quality of the effluent which is of doubtful character at present. The acquisition of further land for irrigation purposes is also necessary.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

250 W.C.'s are connected to the sewage system and 550 to cesspools. There are approximately 1,395 pail closets and 218 earth closets and privy middens; 10 of the latter were converted to more efficient methods during the year.

SCAVENGING.

Scavengers, appointed for the purpose, remove excrement and domestic refuse twice weekly in the Parishes of Barham, Bridge, Charlham, Fordwich, Ickham, Littlebourne and parts of Harbledown and Petham. In the remainder of the District the inhabitants deal with their own accumulations by digging the refuse into the land adjoining their premises.

HOP-PICKERS' HUTS.

These were inspected before and during the season. The huts were in a fair condition and the bye-laws were complied with. No infectious disease occurred in any of the encampments during the year.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are none in the District.

SCHOOLS.

The schools in the District were visited and inspected twice during the year. The sanitary condition and general cleanliness of the buildings was satisfactory. The health of the scholars was normal and beyond a somewhat general prevalence of Chickenpox and Measles towards the end of the year, no epidemic disease of any severity occurred.

Mr. Blundell, the Sanitary Inspector, as usual, afforded me the greatest assistance in the performance of my duties. His energy has resulted in the re-conditioning of many defective premises. The fact that so much was effected without recourse to legal measures speaks highly for his tact and ability. I am most grateful to him for his unfailing assistance.

DOVER RURAL DISTRICT.

To the Chairman and Members of the Dover Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my fifth Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary condition of your District for the year 1925.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

Physical Features and General Character of the District.

The District is bounded roughly as follows:—On the North by the Rural Districts of Bridge and Eastry and the Urban District of Walmer. On the East by the Sea. On the South by the Urban District of Dover and the Sea, and on the West by the Rural District of Elham.

The surface of the District is irregular and hilly; it varies in height from nearly 600 feet above O.D. in the S.W., to about 50 feet above O.D. in the N.E. The surface soil is mainly loamy but with a fair area of stiffish clay, and directly overlies the chalk which forms the sub-soil. The Kent coal-field extends under the Northern part of the District and the main part of the iron ore area also underlies the District.

Social Conditions and Chief Occupations of Inhabitants.

An examination of the table of occupations, printed in the Report on the United District, indicates that by far the larger proportion of the inhabitants are engaged in Agricultural occupations; there are also over 200 miners resident in the District. No large industries exist at present in the District. There is a considerable number of higher class residents. It is highly probable that developments will shortly take place in regard to the mining of iron in the District. When this occurs the condition of the District will be materially altered.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

AREA AND POPULATION.

District.	Area in Acres including Inland Water.	POPULATION.	
		Estimated by Registrar-General	
		For Birth Rate.	For Death Rate.
DOVER R.D. ...	27,121	8,580	8,380

The "natural increase" in the population, due to the excess of births over deaths during the year, is very small. It is unlikely that migration has influenced the population very much. The table above gives the population as estimated by the Registrar General for the purpose of calculating the Birth and Death rates.

Rateable value	...	...	...	£49,454	0	0
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	£206	1	2
Amount of Out Relief administered during 1925	...	...	...	£740	9	1
Number of inhabited houses (1921)	...	...	...		1,846	
Number of families or separate occupiers (1921)	...	...	...		1,884	

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.

The tabular statement below shows all particulars regarding the births registered in the District during the year.

District.	Estimated Population.	BIRTHS.						Birth Rate.	Illegitimate Births % of Total Births.		
		Legitimate		Illegitimate		Total					
		Male	Female	Male	Female						
DOVER R.D. ...	8,580	59	56	3	2	120	13 98	4.1			

There is a considerable reduction in both the number of births registered and in the birth rate for the year. The comparative figures for the five years are shown in tabular form below.

Year.	Total.	Legitimate.		Illegitimate.		Rate per 1,000.
		M.	F.	M.	F.	
1921	135	61	68	4	2	15.79
1922	140	67	66	3	4	16.33
1923	129	60	65	2	2	15.23
1924	130	60	65	4	1	15.19
1925	120	59	56	3	2	13.98

DEATHS.

The corrected nett number of deaths registered for the District during the year was 88; 55 males and 33 females, which, using the population estimated by the Registrar-General for the purpose of calculating the death rate, produces a death rate of 10.50 per 1,000. There is very little change to record from last year's result.

DEATH RATE.				
District.	Year.	Population.	Deaths.	Death Rate per 1,000.
DOVER R.D.	1925	Estimated. 8,380	88	10.50
Death Rate, England and Wales, 12.2 per 1,000.				

The comparative figures for the five years are given in the following tabular statement :—

Year.	Total Deaths	Rate per 1,000.	Rate England and Wales.
1921	85	10.2	12.1
1922	91	10.92	12.9
1923	69	8.41	11.6
1924	89	10.75	12.2
1925	88	10.50	12.2

DOVER RURAL DISTRICT.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN YEAR 1925.

Causes of Death. (Civilians only).	Males.	Females.
All Causes	55	33
1. Enteric fever		
2. Small-pox		
3. Measles		
4. Scarlet fever		
5. Whooping cough	2	4
6. Diphtheria		
7. Influenza	1	
8. Encephalitis lethargica	2	
9. Meningococcal meningitis		
10. Tuberculosis of respiratory system ...	2	
11. Other tuberculous disease	1	1
12. Cancer, malignant disease	5	1
13. Rheumatic fever		2
14. Diabetes	1	
15. Cerebral Haemorrhage	6	1
16. Heart disease	11	6
17. Arterio-sclerosis	2	
18. Bronchitis	4	4
19. Pneumonia (all forms)	3	2
20. Other respiratory diseases ...		
21. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum ...	2	
22. Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years) ...		
23. Appendicitis and typhlitis ...	1	2
24. Cirrhosis of liver		
25. Acute and chronic nephritis ...		1
26. Puerperal sepsis		
27. Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition		
28. Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth	2	
29. Suicide		
30. Other deaths from violence		1
31. Other defined diseases	8	8
32. Causes ill-defined or unknown	1	1
Special Causes (included above) :		
Poliomyelitis		
Polioencephalitis		

There is practically no change to record in regard to the death rate figures. Influenza (1), Tuberculosis (4), other Respiratory diseases (13), Cancer (6) and Heart Disease (17) caused 46.7 per cent of the total deaths registered.

After eliminating the deaths of infants under one year of age, the average age at death of the remainder of the cases registered works out at 59.06 years; 62 of the 88 deaths were of persons over 50. Of these

14 were between 50 and 60

9	„	„	60	„	70
25	„	„	70	„	80
11	„	„	80	„	90
3	„	„	90	„	100

The incidence of the common causes of death during the five years is shown in the following table:—

Cause.	YEAR.				
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
Tuberculosis	7	7	4	5	4
Diseases of Respiration ...	7	6	2	11	13
Heart disease	8	15	7	11	17
Cancer	13	11	5	5	6
Parturition	—	—	1	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping cough	—	1	1	—	6
Scarlet fever	1	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	1	—	1	—	—
Enteric fever	—	—	—	—	—
Influenza	1	—	4	4	1

An examination of the figures shown in the table indicates a slight fall in the number of deaths from Tuberculosis. The mortality from Respiratory diseases seems to depend largely on climatic effects and varies with the weather conditions. Deaths from Heart disease show a tendency to increase. The deaths ascribed to Cancer do not show the District to be unduly affected with this complaint; there is apparently no evidence that the disease is increasing in the District, if anything the evidence points in the other direction at present. The Zymotic deaths are not excessive and the District has been fortunate in the few deaths caused by Influenza during the five years.

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE.

The table below gives all particulars in regard to this rate which is lower than that for 1924 and well below the rate for the Kingdom in general.

District.	INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE, 1925.										
	BIRTHS.				DEATHS UNDER 1 YEAR.				Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births		
	Legitimate		Illegitim'e		Total	Legitimate		Illegitim'e			
	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.		
DOVER R.D.	59	56	3	2	120	6	1	...	...	7	58.33

England and Wales Infantile Mortality rate, 75 per 1,000.

The causes of death in the 7 cases registered in infants under one year of age were as follows :—

	Male.	Female.
Bronchitis	...	1
Pneumonia all forms	...	1
Premature birth	...	1
Congenital deformities	...	1
Whooping cough	2	1

The comparative figures for the five years are given in the tabular statement below.

Causes of Death.	YEAR.				
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
Influenza	...	—	—	—	—
Meningitis	...	—	—	—	—
Congenital heart disease	...	1	—	—	—
Bronchitis	...	1	—	—	1
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	2	—	—	1
Premature birth	...	4	2	2	6
Congenital deformities	...	—	1	1	1
Convulsions	...	1	1	—	—
Diarrhoea	...	—	—	—	—
Trauma	...	—	—	—	—
Whooping cough	...	—	1	1	3
Other defined causes	...	4	3	2	2
Total	...	13	8	6	10
					7

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES OCCURRING DURING THE YEAR 1925.

Forty-six cases of infectious diseases were notified during the year comprising 2 cases of Diphtheria, 12 of Scarlet Fever, 8 of Pneumonia, 2 of Encephalitis Lethargica, 9 of Chicken-pox, 9 of Tuberculosis of the lungs and 4 of Tuberculosis of other organs. The tables which follow show the age, and, in the case of Tuberculosis, sex incidence of these. The table for Tuberculosis shows in addition the deaths from the disease as they occurred among notified and non-notified cases.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED, 1925.

Disease.	AGE PERIODS.											Total.	Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
	0	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45			
Diphtheria ...						1	1					2	2	
Scarlet Fever	1	1		1	8				1			12	11	
Pneumonia ...	1				1	3			2	1		8	4	
Enteric Fever														
Erysipelas ...														
Encephalitis Lethargica ...						1	1					2		
Malaria ...														
Chicken-pox						8	1					9		

DOVER R.D.

TUBERCULOSIS NOTIFICATIONS, 1925.

Age Period.	NEW CASES NOTIFIED.				DEATHS.							
	Pulmonary		Non- Pulmonary		NOTIFIED CASES.		Non- Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non- Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0												
1						1						
5	1	1										1
10		1			2							
15	1	1										
20		1										
25	1											
35	2		1									
45												
55											2*	
65 and up- ward					1							
Total	5	4	1	3	1				2*			1

* Died out of District.

DIPHTHERIA.

Of the two cases notified one was sent into the District in an infectious condition from another District and the other arose at the Duke of York's School from an untraceable cause.

SCARLET FEVER.

Four of the 12 cases were the continuance of an outbreak originating in 1924 at the Duke of York's School and were traceable to a "carrier." Four others occurred at a private school in the District and were in all probability

infected from a case occurring out of the District. One case was infected in London, another was very doubtful being diagnosed from a condition of peeling; the other two cases occurred late in the year and no source could be traced beyond that both had recently visited areas outside the District where Scarlet Fever was prevalent.

PNEUMONIA.

The notification of this complaint is becoming more complete, but there is still room for improvement.

ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA.

Two cases were notified one of which proved fatal. This case was infected out of the District, no source could be found for the other.

CHICKEN-POX.

Considering the general prevalence of this disease in adjoining areas the District was extremely fortunate to escape with only 9 cases.

The table below shows the incidence of the various cases of infectious diseases notified during the five years under consideration :—

Disease.	YEAR.						
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.		
Diphtheria	21	3	6	1	2
Scarlet fever	6	14	6	17	11
Pneumonia	—	—	—	3	8
Enteric fever	—	—	1	—	—
Erysipelas	1	1	—	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	—	—	—	—	—	2
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—
Chicken-pox	—	—	3	24	9
Puerperal fever	—	—	—	1	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Polio-myelitis	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—
Small-pox	—	—	—	3	—
Cerebro-Spinal fever	...	—	—	—	—	1	—

An examination of the table shows a noteworthy reduction in the cases of Diphtheria. There is no general spread of Scarlet Fever; most of the cases notified during the five years having occurred in three residential schools. It will be seen that practitioners are at last notifying cases of Pneumonia but there is still room for improvement in this. The District has been very free from Enteric Fever, one case only having been notified during the period under review. The fact that only one case of Puerperal fever has been notified speaks volumes for the efficiency of the work of the midwives

practising in the area, as does the absence of any cases of Ophthalmia neo-natorum. In my opinion it is possible that cases of Polio-myelitis did occur despite the absence of notifications; if so the results will be found during School inspections later. The three cases of Small-pox which occurred in 1924 will be fresh in your minds; the original case was imported from a Northern District and the two others infected from it. It is only necessary for me to call attention to the remarkable escape the District had from a serious outbreak of the disease having in view the fact that, roughly, only 50 per cent of the population is vaccinated. Encephalitis lethargica and Cerebro-spinal fever have each only visited the District in one year out of the five.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Thirteen cases were notified during 1925. From the fact that 3 of the 4 deaths certified as due to the disease occurred in non-notified cases it is obvious that notification of the disease is still incomplete. Below is a tabular statement showing the particulars in regard to this disease for the five years.

Year.	Lungs.	Other Organs.	Total.	Total Deaths	Deaths in Non-notified Cases.
1921	9	1	10	7	6
1922	16		16	7	3
1923	13	3	16	4	3
1924	8	2	10	6	3
1925	9	4	13	4	3

CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS REMAINING ON REGISTER, DOVER R.D., DECEMBER 31st, 1925.

Male.		Female.	
Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.
27	2	8	6

HOSPITALS.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—The Council does not possess an Isolation Hospital of its own; by arrangement cases of infectious disease are removed to the Dover Borough Isolation Hospital.

SMALL-POX.—Cases of this disease are removed to the Dover Borough Small-pox Hospital.

GENERAL.—There is no General Hospital situated in the District, but cases requiring treatment are received in the Royal Victoria Hospital, Dover.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE,
TREATMENT OF SCHOOL CHILDREN,
TUBERCULOSIS,
VENEREAL DISEASE.

Arrangements are in the hands of the County Authorities.

AMBULANCE ACCOMMODATION.

Infectious cases are removed by the Dover Borough Ambulance. There is no Ambulance in the District to deal with non-infectious cases but Ambulances for this purpose can be hired in Dover.

LABORATORY ACCOMMODATION.

Pathological, Bacteriological and Chemical specimens are sent to the County Laboratory, Maidstone, for examination.

DIPHTHERIA ANTITOXIN.

This is supplied free of charge by the Council.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

- (a) General.
- (b) For Infectious Diseases.

No special arrangements have been made for such by the Council.

INSTITUTIONAL PROVISION FOR UNMARRIED MOTHERS, ILLEGITIMATE INFANTS AND HOMELESS CHILDREN.

No special arrangements have been made by the Council.

GENERAL HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT DURING THE YEAR.

No epidemics arose during the year to which it was necessary to call your special attention. The general health was quite good and the District was fortunate in escaping largely from the somewhat general prevalence of infectious disease.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

The following is a summary of the work of the Sanitary Department, and of action taken under the Public Health Acts or by-laws during the year :—

ADOPTIVE ACTS IN FORCE.

Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890.

Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890.

Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1907 (Parts III. and IV.)

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

The Staff consists of the Medical Officer of Health and one Sanitary Inspector, who also acts as Surveyor.

RURAL DISTRICT OF DOVER, 1925.

Number of Inspectors of Nuisances, nil whole time, 1 part time.

Number of visits paid by Inspector during the year, 504.

Places Inspected.	No. in District.	No. of visits in 1925.	No. of defects found.	No. of defects remedied.
Bakehouses	8	8	1	1
Dairies				
Cowsheds	104	87	7	7
Milkshops				
Slaughterhouses : Registered	9	19	2	2
Licensed				
Common Lodging Houses ...	-	-	-	-
Houses let in Lodgings ...	-	-	-	-
Factories				
Workshops	27	25	-	-
Workplaces				

Nuisances found or reported during the year (other than those above stated).

Nature.	Number Investigated	* Number Abated.
Overcrowding	1	1
Offensive Trades	1	1
Keeping of Animals	1	1
Sanitary accommodation ...	3	3
		Including one conversion of type.
Drainage	14	14
Dustbins	-	-
Others	-	* Including also nuisances investigated in 1924 and remedied in 1925.

Numbers of each type of Sanitary Convenience in District (approximate).

W.C.s						
(a) into Drainage System	...	...				Nil
(b) into Cesspools	...	...				515
Earth Closets or Privy Middens	...	...				136
Pail Closets	...	...	...	...	...	1,351

Notices Served (a) Statutory, 2; (b) Informal, 37.

Number of premises disinfected, 9 and 1 School.

Number of articles of clothing, etc., disinfected. No record was kept but disinfection was carried out in all cases where infection was notified.

FOOD INSPECTION.

The Bakehouses (8), Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops (104) were visited and inspected during the year. Minor defects found were remedied. The cowsheds in the District in several instances have been improved and every endeavour is being made by the Sanitary Authority to raise the standard of milk production generally.

The Slaughter Houses were frequently inspected and found to be well kept and cleanly; minor defects found were remedied.

The Council has appointed Mr. T. Clyde, M.R.C.V.S., as Meat Inspector for the District. No unsound food was reported or condemned during the year.

The Council is not an Authority under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act.

There are no *common lodging houses* or *houses let in lodgings* in the District.

No defects were found in the *Factories, Workshops and Work Places* during the year.

UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES.

Sixty-seven houses were inspected during the year under the Public Health or Housing Acts; 40 of these were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations 1910 or Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925. One house was found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation, while six others were found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation,

Five of these were rendered fit after due notice. Notices were served in two cases under sect. 3 of the Housing Act, 1925, and one house was rendered fit.

No Closing Orders were made and none became operative during the year but one house was closed voluntarily by the owner. Formal notices under the Public Health Acts were served in 17 instances and all the premises were rendered fit by the owners.

Twenty-two new houses were erected during the year by private enterprise without assistance from State grants.

HOUSING MATTERS.

In the course of the Report on the United District (see back), I have presented Tabular Statements, a reference to which will give the condition of the District in this regard. The figures are those found during the Census taken in 1921; they do not indicate any shortage of houses in the District and it is safe to say that very little such exists. There are in the District, however, 12 houses the condition of which is sufficiently unsatisfactory to warrant their condemnation. In addition there have been lost to the District through Closing Orders or voluntary closure a further 18 houses. Therefore it would appear that there is need for some 30 houses to replace these premises. From experience in adjoining Districts, my opinion is that were the Council to afford assistance in the way of loans (as sanctioned by Housing legislation), with the additional aid of the Government subsidy, private enterprise would readily meet this demand for the District.

Since 1921 new houses have been erected in the District, according to particulars furnished to me, as follows :—

1921	...	...	28
1922	...	...	35
1923	...	...	43
1924	...	...	28
1925	...	...	22

WATER SUPPLY.

The table below shows the approximate condition of each of the Parishes in regard to water supply. It will be seen that Poulton, Denton and Wootton have no main supply at all, while several other Parishes, notably Alkham, Capel le Ferne, Coldred and Hougham are but poorly provided with main supplies. In the case of Capel and Hougham the Council should consider seriously the advisability of obtaining a main supply.

DOVER R.D.

PARTICULARS AS TO WATER SUPPLY.

Parish.	Mains.	Wells, etc.	No. of Houses Census 1921.	Water Company.
Alkham	40	98	138	Folkestone.
Capel le Ferne	1	60	61	„
Coldred	18	15	33	East Kent.
Denton		38	38	(Private wells).
E. Langdon	70	12	82	East Kent.
Guston	125		125	„ „
Hougham, Without ...	8	92	100	Dover Corporation.
Lydden	{ 33	5	49	{ East Kent.
Oxney	{ 11			Folkestone.
Poulton	2	2	4	East Kent.
Ringwould	17		17	(Wells and rain.)
River	290		267	East Kent.
S. Margaret's	46		38	„ „
Sibertswold	305		278	„ „
Temple Ewell	219		207	„ „
West Cliffe	151	90	241	„ „
West Langdon	11	10	21	„ „
Whitfield	16	9	25	„ „
Wootton	91	2	93	„ „
Houses constructed since 1921		29	29	(Wells and rain.)
Total, approx. ...	1,437	565	2,002	

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The District does not possess any system of main drainage.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Five hundred and fifteen W.C.'s are connected to cess-pools. There are 136 earth closets or privy middens. Whenever opportunity occurs the latter are converted to more satisfactory systems. There are approximately 1,351 pail closets in the District.

SCAVENGING.

Scavengers have been appointed by the Parish Councils of St. Margaret's at Cliffe, Ringwould and Kingsdown, Temple Ewell and Sibertswold for the purpose of removing domestic refuse and excrement. In the remainder of the District refuse is disposed of by the inhabitants by digging it in on land adjacent to their dwellings.

SCHOOLS.

The schools in the District were each visited and inspected twice during the year. Their sanitary condition and cleanliness was satisfactory. The health and general condition of the scholars inspected was quite up to the normal standard. No serious outbreaks of epidemic disease occurred during the year among school children.

I am greatly indebted to Mr. Whitewood, the Sanitary Inspector, for his invaluable assistance to me in the performance of my duties. It is always a source of wonder to me that Mr. Whitewood is able to perform his Sanitary duties so successfully, considering the amount of general work he gets through. The Sanitary condition of the District, generally, speaks highly for his energy and devotion to duty.

EASTRY RURAL DISTRICT.

To the Chairman and Members of the Eastry Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my fifth Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Condition of your District for the year 1925.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

Physical Features and General Character of the District.

The District is bounded roughly as follows:—On the North by the River Stour separating it from the Rural District of Thanet. On the East by the Sea and the Urban Districts of Deal and Walmer. On the South by the Rural District of Dover and on the West by the Rural District of Bridge.

The surface of the District is undulating; in its N.E. part, along the River Stour and sea coast, the land is low-lying, in several parts very little above O.D., whereas in the S.W. part of the District a height of some 300 feet above O.D. is attained. The soil is mainly loam, overlying the chalk in varying thickness, but, in the vicinity of the River there are considerable sub-soil deposits of sand, gravel and clay. Patches of brick earth occur frequently, and should be of great assistance and value in the course of the building operations which are imminent in the District. The District immediately overlies the richest part of the Kent Coal area, and, in its Southern part, overlies a portion of the iron-bearing area also.

Social Conditions and Chief Occupations of Inhabitants.

In the Report on the United District I have furnished a tabular statement of the Occupations of the inhabitants. A reference to this will show that by far the larger number of the inhabitants are at present engaged in Agricultural occupations; there are however, some 400 miners resident in the area, but no other industries of importance exist in the District at present. There is a considerable number of large residential properties. Arrangements are being completed for the erection of large numbers of houses for the occupation of tenants engaged in the mining industry which will completely alter the conditions of the District.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

AREA AND POPULATION.

The following table gives particulars as to the above.

District.	Area in Acres including Inland Water.	POPULATION.	
		Estimated by Registrar-General	
		For Birth Rate.	For Death Rate.
EASTRY R.D.	... 43,683	13,480	13,480

The "natural increase" in the population, due to the excess of births over deaths for the year, is maintained fairly well. The table above gives the population as estimated by the Registrar-General for the purpose of calculating the birth and death rates. The effect of migration on the population is extremely difficult to estimate, and no correct estimate of the actual population will be possible before the next Census is taken.

Rateable value	...	...	...	£95,847	0	0
Sum represented by a penny rate	...			£297	0	0
Amount of Out Relief administered during 1925	...	...	...	£1,047	0	0
Number of inhabited houses (1921)	...				3,250	
Number of families or separate occupiers (1921)	...	...	...			3,310

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.

The tabular statement appended shows all particulars regarding the births registered in the District during the year.

District.	Estimated Population	BIRTHS.						Birth Rate.	Illegitimate Births % of Total Births		
		Legitimate		Illegitimate		Total					
		Male	Female	Male	Female						
EASTRY R.D....	13,480	108	112	8	4	232		17.21	5.1		

The number of births registered and the birth rate were in excess of those for 1924. This is satisfactory but the birth rate is below that for the country as a whole. The comparative figures for the five years are shown in the following tabular statement :—

Year.	Total.	Legitimate.		Illegitimate.		Rate per 1,000.
		M.	F.	M.	F.	
1921	243	113	118	7	5	18.21
1922	247	121	114	8	4	18.47
1923	240	112	119	4	5	17.92
1924	216	111	97	3	5	16.1
1925	232	108	112	8	4	17.21

DEATHS.

The corrected nett number of deaths which occurred in the District during the year was 155, of which 84 were males and 71 females. Using the population estimated by the Registrar General for the purpose of calculating the death rate this produces a rate of 11.49 per 1,000. This is in excess of the rate for 1924 but well below the rate for the Kingdom. The standardised rate works out at 8.52 per 1,000, which is very satisfactory.

DEATH RATE.				
District.	Year.	Popuation.	Deaths.	Death Rate per 1,000.
EASTRY R.D.	Estimated. 13,480	155	11.49

Death Rate, England and Wales, 12.2 per 1,000.

The comparative figures for the five years are given in the following table :—

Year.	Total Deaths.	Rate per 1,000.	Rate England and Wales.
1921	153	11.4	12.1
1922	147	10.99	12.9
1923	136	10.15	11.6
1924	135	10.06	12.2
1925	155	11.49	12.2

An analysis of the returns for the year shows that, after eliminating the deaths of infants under one year of age, the average age at death of the remainder was 61.8 years. 101 of the 155 deaths were those of persons over 50, of whom

7 were between 50 and 60.

31	„	„	60	„	70.
33	„	„	70	„	80.
26	„	„	80	„	90.
4	„	„	90	„	100.

EASTRY RURAL DISTRICT.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN YEAR 1925.

Causes of Death. (Civilians only).						Males.	Females.
All Causes	...	...	...	...	...	84	71
1. Enteric fever	...	...	...	...	...
2. Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...		1
3. Measles	...	...	...	...	...
4. Scarlet fever	...	...	...	...	...
5. Whooping cough	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
6. Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...
7. Influenza	...	...	...	...	...
8. Encephalitis lethargica	...	...	...	...	...
9. Meningococcal meningitis	...	...	...	...	...
10. Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	5	3	
11. Other tuberculous disease	...	...	...	...	2	1	
12. Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	...	...	7	8	
13. Rheumatic fever	...	...	...	...	2		
14. Diabetes	...	...	...	...	1	2	
15. Cerebral Haemorrhage	...	...	...	...	5	5	
16. Heart disease	...	...	...	...	12	14	
17. Arterio-sclerosis	...	...	...	...	1	1	
18. Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	11	5	
19. Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	1	4	
20. Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	...	2		
21. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...	...	...	...
22. Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...
23. Appendicitis and typhlitis	...	...	...	...
24. Cirrhosis of liver	...	...	...	...
25. Acute and chronic nephritis	...	...	...	...		1	
26. Puerperal sepsis	...	...	...	...
27. Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition	...	...	...	...
28. Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth	...	...	...	...	3	5	
29. Suicide	...	...	...	...	5		
30. Other deaths from violence	...	...	...	...	7	1	
31. Other defined diseases	...	...	...	...	19	18	
32. Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	...
Special Causes (included above) :							
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...
Poliocerebralitis	...	...	...	...

There was an increase in the nett number of deaths registered during the year; Influenza (0), Tuberculosis (11), other Respiratory diseases (21), Heart disease (26), and Cancer (15), causing 47 per cent of the total deaths.

The incidence of the common causes of death during the five years is shown in the table following :—

Cause.	Year.				
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
Tuberculosis	13	13	15	6	11
Diseases of respiration ..	20	25	11	20	21
Heart disease	17	16	24	20	26
Cancer	17	11	12	14	15
Parturition	1	1	4	2	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	1
Whooping cough	—	1	1	1	3
Scarlet fever	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric fever	—	—	—	—	—
Influenza	1	4	3	5	—

The figures revealed by the table are small and it would be unwise to dogmatise on them. Suffice it to say that they do not disclose any disquieting features. The deaths from Tuberculosis are tending to diminish; the deaths from Respiratory diseases appear to vary with climatic conditions and ebb and flow in accordance with the prevailing type of weather. The deaths from Heart disease remain fairly constant; there appears a slight tendency to increase in the deaths from Cancer but this increase is in no way marked. The Zymotic rate is quite satisfactory and the District has not suffered from any undue mortality due to Influenza. Deaths among lying-in women have occurred in four of the five years under review, but the average mortality rate per cent is low compared with many other Districts; nevertheless this is an unfortunate fact to record.

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE.

The particulars in regard to this are shown in the table below. There is a satisfactory fall in the rate for the year, which is very good as compared with the rate for the Kingdom as a whole.

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE, 1925.												Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births.		
District.	BIRTHS.						DEATHS UNDER 1 YEAR						Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births.	
	Legitimate		Illegitimate		Total	Legitimate		Illegitimate		Total				
	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.					
EASTRY R.D.	108	112	8	4	232	6	9	—	1	16	68.96			

England and Wales Infantile Mortality Rate, 75 per 1,000 births.

The causes of death in the 16 cases certified among infants under one year of age were as follows:—

	Male.	Female.
Meningitis
Congenital Heart Disease	...	2
Pneumonia, all forms	...	1
Premature Birth	...	1
Congenital Deformities	...	1
Whooping Cough	...	2
Other defined causes	...	4

The tabular statement below shows the comparative figures for the five years:—

Causes of Death.	Year.				
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925
Influenza	—	1	—
Meningitis	1	1	1
Congenital heart disease	...	2	3	1	2
Bronchitis	...	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	2	—	2	1
Premature birth	...	9	2	3	5
Congenital deformities	...	1	—	1	1
Convulsions	...	3	2	1	1
Diarrhoea	...	—	—	—	—
Trauma	...	1	—	1	1
Whooping cough	...	—	1	—	3
Other defined causes	...	4	2	2	5
Total	...	23	11	11	16
					16

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES OCCURRING DURING THE YEAR 1925.

One hundred and sixteen cases of infectious diseases were notified during the year. These comprised 10 cases of Diphtheria, 11 of Scarlet fever, 4 of Pneumonia, 1 of Enteric Fever, 2 of Erysipelas, 1 of Encephalitis lethargica, 50 of Chicken-pox, 28 of Tuberculosis of the lungs and 9 of Tuberculosis of other organs. The tabular statements which follow show the age, and, in the case of Tuberculosis, sex incidence of these; the table for Tuberculosis shows in addition the deaths from the disease as they occurred among notified and non-notified cases.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED, 1925.

Disease.	AGE PERIODS.												Total	Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
	0	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65			
Diphtheria		2	1	1	3			1	2				10	8	
Scarlet Fever		1	1		5	3	1						11	9	
Pneumonia	2							1	1				4		
Enteric Fever								1					1	1	
Erysipelas									1	1			2	1	
Encephalitis Lethargica						1							1		1
Malaria															
Chicken-pox	4	4	4	3	6	22	6		1				50		

EASTRY R.D.

TUBERCULOSIS NOTIFICATIONS, 1925.

Age Period.	NEW CASES								DEATHS.							
	NOTIFIED.				NOTIFIED CASES.				NON-NOTIFIED CASES.							
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary					
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0			1	1					1	1						
1		1	2	1												
5	2	3														
10	1			1												
15	1	1					1									1
20		2														1
25	4	2		1			1									1
35	3	2					3	1								
45	3	1				1							1	1		
55	2															
65 and up- ward																
Total	16	12	5	4	4	3	1	1	1	1	3*	1				

* 1 notified after death.

DIPHTHERIA.

Ten cases were notified in all. No source could be traced for the first case, the second case was in all probability not Diphtheria, the remaining eight cases originated from a case which was about in school for several days before a doctor was called in. I visited the school and took 40 swabs, finding several subacute actual cases and positive "carriers." With two exceptions these were removed to hospital and the outbreak ceased as suddenly as it arose.

SCARLET FEVER.

Eleven cases were notified. The first two were infected at Margate; the remaining 9 all arose at a school in the District where after much searching, a child was found suffering from a discharging nose. When this child was isolated the outbreak ceased. This case was probably infected in London.

PNEUMONIA.

The notifications of this disease are far from complete although better than in the past years.

ENTERIC FEVER.

The one case notified was really a case from another District.

ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA.

The one case notified, for which no source could be traced, proved fatal.

CHICKEN-POX.

During the early part of the year this disease was very prevalent in a mild form.

EASTRY R.D.

INCIDENCE OF THE VARIOUS INFECTIOUS DISEASES DURING
THE FIVE YEARS 1921-1925.

Disease.	Year.				
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
Diphtheria	2	1	11	3	10
Scarlet fever	5	14	6	10	11
Pneumonia	2	—	7	2	4
Enteric fever	1	3	—	1	1
Erysipelas	2	3	1	2	2
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	—	—	—	1	1
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—
Chicken-pox	—	—	2	74	50
Puerperal fever	1	—	1	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	—	—	—	—	—
Polio-Myelitis	—	—	1	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—
Small-pox	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal fever ...	—	—	—	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS.

Thirty-seven cases were notified during the year. The standard of notification of this disease is better, but there is still room for improvement; only two deaths occurred among non-notified cases of the disease. The table which follows shows the incidence of this disease during the five years:

Year.	Lungs.	Other Organs.	Total.	Total Deaths.	Deaths in Non-notified Cases.
1921	17	3	20	13	6
1922	17	5	22	13	5
1923	36	10	46	16	3
1924	28	3	31	5	1
1925	28	9	37	11	2

CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS REMAINING ON REGISTER
EASTRY R.D., DEC. 31st, 1925.

Male.		Female.	
Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.
47	11	38	7

HOSPITALS.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—The Council possesses an Isolation Hospital situated at Eastry. It is arranged for the concurrent treatment of two diseases only. It is a matter of considerable concern to me that no provision exists for the isolation of Enteric fever. This disease is one of the most serious in its possible consequences in regard to spread. So much depends upon the adequate disinfection of the excreta, bedding, etc., to say nothing as to the careful nursing attention required by cases. In a District so poorly provided with main drainage and in which excreta are so commonly dealt with by the inhabitants themselves, the risk of epidemic spread of this disease is very great. Because, up to the present, no such spread has ever occurred, is no argument against my repeated suggestion that the Council should consider seriously making provision for the isolation of cases of this disease.

SMALL-POX.—The Council possesses premises for the isolation of this disease, situated at Hammill. By arrangement, cases occurring in the Districts of Deal, Walmer, Sandwich and Bridge, will be admitted.

GENERAL.—There is no General Hospital situated in the District, but cases requiring treatment are received in the General Hospitals at Deal, Dover and Canterbury.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE, TREATMENT OF SCHOOL CHILDREN, TUBERCULOSIS, VENEREAL DISEASE.—Arrangements are in the hands of the County Authorities.

AMBULANCE ACCOMMODATION.

The Council possesses a Horse Ambulance for the removal of infectious cases. Difficulty has arisen on occasions in obtaining the ready services of this vehicle. The Council should consider the advisability of installing a Motor Ambulance, either of its own or in conjunction with neighbouring Authorities.

There is no Ambulance in the District for the conveyance of non-infectious cases, but, Ambulances for this purpose can be obtained on hire from Sandwich or Canterbury.

LABORATORY ACCOMMODATION.

Pathological, Bacteriological and Chemical specimens are sent for examination to the County Laboratory, Maidstone.

DIPHTHERIA ANTITOXIN.

This is supplied free of charge by the Council and every endeavour is made to ensure its prompt administration to cases prior to admission to Hospital.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

- (a) General
- (b) For Infectious Diseases.

No arrangements have been made by the Council for this.

INSTITUTIONAL PROVISION FOR UNMARRIED MOTHERS, ILLEGITIMATE INFANTS AND HOMELESS CHILDREN.

The Council possesses a Cottage Home for Children situated at Eastry.

GENERAL HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT DURING THE YEAR.

The General Health of the District during the year was good; there was no special epidemic prevalence of disease to which it was necessary to call attention, beyond the outbreak of Diphtheria at the end of the year.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

The following is a summary of the work of the Sanitary Department, and action taken under the Public Health Acts or bye-laws during the year :—

ADOPTIVE ACTS IN FORCE.

Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890.

Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

The Staff consists of the Medical Officer of Health and one whole-time Sanitary Inspector. The Council employs the services of an Architect who is of great assistance to the Sanitary Department.

RURAL DISTRICT OF EASTRY, 1925.

No. of Inspectors of Nuisances, 1 whole-time, nil part-time. Total number of visits paid by Inspector during the year, 2,128.

Places inspected.	No. in District.	No. of visits in 1925.	No. of defects found.	No. of defects remedied.
Bakehouses	19	76	1	1
Dairies	1			
Cowsheds	52	144	2	2
Milkshops				
Slaughter-houses :				
Registered	14	98	5	5
Licensed				
Common Lodging-houses ...	Nil			
Houses let in Lodgings ...	Nil			
Factories				
Workshops	32	32		
Workplaces				

Nuisances found or reported during the year (other than those above stated).

Nature.	Number Investigated	* Number Abated.
Overcrowding	8	8
Offensive Trades	2	2
Keeping of Animals ...	10	10
Sanitary Accommodation ...	16	16 Including 1 conversion of type.
Drainage	19	19
Dustbins		
Others		* Including also nuisances investigated in 1924 and abated in 1925.

Numbers of each type of Sanitary Convenience in District
(Approximate).

W.C.s	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(a) into Drainage system	...	...	...	...	...	107	
(b) into Cesspools	...	...	...	...	...	614	
Earth Closets or Privy Middens	...	...	...	...	...	131	
Pail Closets	...	...	...	...	...	2,531	

NOTICES SERVED.

(a) Statutory, nil. Informal, 121.

NUMBER OF PREMISES DISINFECTED, 17.

NUMBER OF BATCHES CLOTHING, etc., DISINFECTED, 28.

FOOD INSPECTION.

The BAKEHOUSES (19), DAIRIES, COWSHEDS and MILKSHOPS (53) in the district were frequently visited during the year. They were found to be well conducted and in satisfactory sanitary condition; one minor defect found was remedied.

The 14 registered SLAUGHTER HOUSES were very frequently visited during the year, on many occasions during the period of slaughter; 5 minor defects found were remedied.

1 ton, 8 cwts., 3 qrs., 15lbs. of unsound meat was voluntarily surrendered and dealt with.

UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES.

Ninety-six dwelling houses were inspected under the Public Health or Housing Acts. 63 of these were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925. Three houses were found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation, while 29 other houses were found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. Twenty-nine houses were rendered fit as the result of informal notices and action was in process in regard to the remainder. Closing Orders (made

in the preceding year), became operative in the case of two houses which were closed and demolished by the owners. Twenty-seven new houses were erected during the year by private persons with State assistance in 17 instances.

HOUSING MATTERS.

In the Report on the United District (see back), I have printed tables which show the condition of the District in this regard as found during the taking of the Census in 1921. It is safe to say that there was no acute shortage of accommodation evidenced in 1921 in the District, and, it would seem that what shortage did exist was probably caused by the arrival in the District of some number of miners and their families (a reference to the table of occupations also printed in the United District Report will show that there were nearly 400 miners in the District in 1921). It appears likely that a large proportion of these families will move to the new colliery towns when built in the near future and so afford vacant premises available for other families. This circumstance renders it difficult to make a reliable estimate as to the actual shortage of houses in the District. Again, many of the premises previously reported on as only fit to be condemned owing to their poor condition, have been re-conditioned, thanks to the efforts of the Sanitary Inspector, and are now in fair condition. In several instances considerable sums have been spent on alterations and repairs and many of these old houses are really better premises now than some of the newer specimens erected during recent years.

Since 1921 new houses have been built in the District as follows:—

1921	...	...	...	21
1922	...	...	...	22
1923	...	...	...	16
1924	...	...	...	25
1925	...	...	...	27

and 22 premises for the occupation of "safety men" at the mines. Undoubtedly a number of these 133 houses have been built for persons who have come into the District from surrounding areas and who are not members of the "working classes," yet some of the older houses have been vacated and some of the "working classes" housed in consequence. I have gone into the whole question carefully with the Sanitary Inspector and we are of opinion that, to replace premises which should be condemned, there is need in the various Parishes of the following number of houses:—

Ash	...	...	...	8
Eastry	...	...	...	13
Goodnestone	...	...	...	3
Nonington	...	...	...	4
Preston	...	...	...	8
Sholden	...	...	...	1
Staple	...	...	...	3
Tilmanstone	...	...	...	2
Wingham	...	...	...	3

making a total of 45.

And we conclude that there is *apparent* need for additional houses as follows :—

Ash	...	...	...	12
Chillenden	...	...	...	2
Eastry	...	...	...	7
Eythorne	...	...	...	20
Goodnestone	...	...	...	2
Gt. Mongeham	...	...	...	4
Ham	...	...	...	3
Nonington	...	...	...	6
Northbourne	...	...	...	4
Preston	...	...	...	12
Woodnesborough	...	...	...	6

making a total of 78.

We feel exceedingly diffident in suggesting that 78 new houses are actually required for the District, bearing in mind the facts already adduced. I am convinced that with aid from the Council in the shape of loans and from the State in the form of subsidy, that private enterprise will largely meet the demand and so save the Council from embarking on any extensive building scheme.

WATER SUPPLY.

The table which follows shows the condition of each of the Parishes in regard to water supply. It will be observed that Ham and Staple are entirely without main supplies, while Great Mongeham, Northbourne and Sholden are but poorly supplied. In the case of Staple the Council should

seriously consider the question of insisting on a main supply; complaints as to the quality of the water have been fairly frequent, and, while none of the samples examined have actually been condemned, they have never been completely satisfactory.

EASTRY R.D.

PARTICULARS AS TO WATER SUPPLY.

Parish.	Premises connected to		No. of Houses Census 1921.	Water Company.
	Mains.	Wells, etc.		
Ash	364	205	552	Sandwich Corporation.
Barfrestone	21		20	East Kent.
Betteshanger	10	4	14	Estate mains.
Chillenden	28	7	35	Margate Corporation.
Eastry	221	88	292	<i>Three from stream.</i> Sandwich Corporation.
Elmstone	12	8	20	Margate Corporation.
Eythorne	192	11	198	East Kent.
Goodnestone	73	33	106	Margate Corporation.
Ham		13	13	<i>Wells, three from stream.</i>
Knowlton	7		7	Margate Corporation.
Mongeham, Great ...	27	87	105	East Kent.
Mongeham, Little ...	40	15	55	
Nonington	169	54	213	Margate Corporation.
Northbourne	{ 40			Estate mains.
	{ 59	103	184	East Kent.
Preston	94	38	127	Margate Corporation.
Ripple	{ 21			Deal.
	{ 48	6	69	East Kent.
Sholden	72	81	150	Deal, <i>Eight from stream.</i>
Staple			118	(Local wells.)
Stourmouth	47	28	73	Margate Corporation.
Sutton	34	6	35	East Kent.
Tilmanstone	72	7	79	" "
Waldershare	{ 2			East Kent.
	{ 30		30	Estate mains.
Wingham	268	52	313	Margate Corporation, <i>Two from streams.</i>
Woodnesborough ...	164	80	239	Sandwich Corporation.
Worth	155	69	203	" "
Houses constructed since 1921			133	
Total (approx.) ...	2,270	1,113	3,383	

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

There is no main drainage system in the District except at Ash, where some 107 premises are connected to the sewers and sewage farm.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Approximately 107 W.C.'s are connected to the sewage system and 614 to cesspools. There are some 2,531 pail closets and 131 earth closets and privy-middens in the District; the latter are gradually being converted to more sanitary types.

SCAVENGING.

Scavengers are appointed by the Council for the removal of excrement and refuse in the Parishes of Ash, Eastry, Wingham, Woodnesborough and a part of Worth. In the remainder of the District the inhabitants deal with their own refuse, digging it into the land adjoining their dwellings.

HOP PICKERS' HUTS.

The inspections showed these to be well conducted in conformity with the bye-laws.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

The horse slaughtering premises have been regularly inspected and were found to be well conducted, minor defects found were at once remedied.

SCHOOLS.

These were regularly inspected and found to be in satisfactory sanitary condition. With the exception of somewhat prevalent Chicken-pox and the outbreak of Diphtheria already mentioned, the health of the scholars was good and their physical condition as found at the routine inspections was quite up to the County standard.

I must again tender my sincere thanks to Mr. Buddle, the Sanitary Inspector, for his able and unfailing assistance to me in the performance of my duties. A reference to the summary of his Report will show the enormous amount of excellent work that this officer gets through in the course of a year. The general satisfactory sanitary condition of the District is a testimony to the efficiency with which he performs his duties and the fact that so much reform is effected without recourse to legal action bears witness to the tact with which he is endowed.

